

Iraqis resume bombing attacks

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi warplanes on Wednesday bombed Iran's key Kharg oil terminal for the second running day along with the Ganavah pumping station that feeds the facility, the military command announced. The attacks on Kharg and other Iranian oil installations were resumed Tuesday after a several-day lull during which Iraqi President Saddam Hussein renewed an offer for a peaceful end to the war with Iran, now almost six years old. Iran has rejected the offer. Sustained Iraqi air raids on Iranian economic installations had dwindled in recent days following a spell of air and bombing attacks by both sides on strategic targets in each other's hinterland. Baghdad and Tehran charged each other of attacking civilian areas and Iran had threatened to launch surface-to-surface missiles on industrial centres in Iraqi cities in "retaliation."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

Prince Hassan visits Mafrq firm

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday paid a surprise visit to a company for developing animal wealth in Mafrq. He met with officials and directors of the company and was briefed on the activities of the company. The company is a share-holding venture with its capital shared by a group of private and public organisations including the Pension Fund, the Agricultural Credit Corporation, the Jordan Cooperative Organisation, the Social Security Corporation and the Yarmouk University Savings Fund. The company now produces lean meat as well as animal feed for livestock and serves as a model project in the eastern regions of the Kingdom. Prince Hassan said on Wednesday the project should contribute to the development of the region and he made remarks on the management and development of its projects.

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Arab ministers to meet on Sept. 15

TUNIS (R) — Arab League foreign ministers will meet here next month in what is likely to be the first high-level Arab meeting since the July 22-23 talks between King Hassan of Morocco and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Arab diplomatic sources said Wednesday. The regular, six-monthly foreign ministers' meeting on Sept. 15 to 17 is expected to take place before any Arab summit on the talks can be organised, the sources said.

Kasm warns Israel

DAMASCUS (R) — Prime Minister Abdul Rauf Al Kasm said Wednesday Syria expects an Israeli attack at any time and would respond by striking deep into Israeli territory. "We are expecting an Israeli aggression any moment...but we are ready at any moment, any minute, to respond to this aggression and strike in Israel's depth," he told university students at a military training camp. The official Syrian news agency SANA said Dr. Kasm was commenting on what he described as Israeli leaders' statements speculating on war with Syria.

Bomb explodes near U.S. bank in Delhi

NEW DELHI (AP) — A bomb exploded Wednesday night at a Bank of America building housing offices of Saudi Arabian and Kuwait airlines. The representative of the building contractor said. No injuries were reported in the blast but a ground floor staircase was shattered and many windows were broken in the airline offices.

OIC meeting unlikely this year

JEDDAH (AP) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) is not likely to hold its annual foreign ministers conference this year, OIC officials said Wednesday. The officials, who spoke on condition they not be further identified, said none of the OIC member states has agreed to host the 17th ministerial meeting. The foreign ministers who work as the executive body of the OIC meet every year in one of the member states to consider implementation of the general policy.

Longest surviving artificial-heart patient dies

LOUISVILLE (R) — William Schroeder, who lived a record 620 days with a mechanical heart pumping in place of his diseased natural one, died Wednesday, hospital officials said. The 54-year-old former munitions-plant worker was the last survivor of five men given permanent artificial hearts since 1982. The cause of death was not disclosed but Schroeder, 54, had gone into decline on Tuesday and there were reports he had suffered another stroke — his fourth since receiving the artificial heart on Nov. 25, 1984.

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King and Mubarak meet in Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein held two rounds of talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak shortly after his arrival here on a working visit.

The two leaders' meeting, the first since May when Mr. Mubarak visited Jordan, was expected to cover the latest developments in the Middle East, prospects for peace in the region, inter-Arab affairs and the Gulf war as well as bilateral relations.

The King, who is accompanied by His Majesty Queen Noor, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, was received upon arrival here by President Mubarak and his wife and high-ranking Egyptian officials including the speaker of the People's Assembly, Mr. Rifai at Mahjoub, and Mr. Mubarak's adviser Osama Al Baz.

The talks between the King and President Mubarak were attended by Mr. Rifai, Mr. Qasem and Mr. Abu Odeh. On the Egyptian side the meeting was attended by Mr. Mahjoub, Dr. Baz, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and several cabinet members.

The talks were being held at the Ras Al Teen Palace overlooking the Mediterranean. The first round of talks was followed by a luncheon hosted by Mr. Mubarak.

The Jordanian-Egyptian summit follows a visit to the Middle East by U.S. Vice-President George Bush. Mr. Bush ended the 10-day three-state visit in Cairo on Monday after talks in Israel and Jordan.

In a press conference he held before his departure from Cairo, Mr. Bush said he found progress towards peace in the Middle East during his talks with the leaders of the three countries he visited.

Mr. Bush said he had found certain "areas of commonality among Israel, Jordan and Egypt and many Palestinians" which created a basis to advance peace talks (See story on right).

In Washington on Wednesday, a spokesman for Mr. Bush denied a report in a Kuwaiti newspaper that the vice-president had met with Khalil Wazir, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's deputy, during his visit to Cairo. Mr. Wazir was also in Cairo during Mr. Bush's visit.

Mr. Wazir's spokesman Steve Hart said the report of a Bush-Wazir meeting was "not true."

The Kuwaiti paper Al Watan, in an uncorroborated report, had said the meeting between the U.S.

vice-president and Mr. Wazir dealt extensively with the prospects of a Palestinian settlement and reviewed relations between the PLO and Jordan.

Mr. Wazir was quoted on Wednesday as lashing out at Mr. Bush and describing his Mideast tour as "a violent provocation" of Arab feelings and an "electioneering stunt."

Mr. Wazir denounced the Bush trip in an interview with the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat.

Charging that Mr. Bush was only catering to the U.S. Jewish electorate when he visited Jerusalem, Mr. Wazir said that "represented a violent provocation of national, religious, Palestinian, Arab and Islamic feelings. It is why many Palestinian figures (from Israeli-occupied parts) refused to meet Bush."

Mr. Wazir, who has been visiting Cairo since last week, said in the interview with Al Sharq Al Awsat that the trip of Mr. Bush "provided nothing new" to help push through a peaceful settlement to the Middle East problem.

"Everybody is criticising Bush's electioneering stunt since he has been vaunting his power without carrying anything new in terms of political reality," said Mr. Wazir.

It is because the U.S.

(Continued on page 3)

N. Lebanese clans locked in battles

BEIRUT (AP) — Gunbattles erupted anew between two prominent Christian clans in north Lebanon's cedars mountains on Wednesday, and police said two people were killed and two others wounded.

In Beirut, police said the mid-city museum crossing was reopened Wednesday despite a brief exchange of mortars that killed a traffic policeman and wounded 12 other civilians on Tuesday.

The one-kilometre crossing connects Beirut's mainly Muslim western and predominantly Christian eastern sectors at the central zone of the dividing green line.

It was closed by the army command last Wednesday, a day after a car-bomb exploded in Barbir district on the Western edge of the crossing, killing 25 people and injuring 170.

That explosion came 24 hours after a car packed with a quarter-ton of explosives blew up in east Beirut's green line residential district of Ain Rummaneh, killing 32 people and wounding 140.

The fighting in north Lebanon involved the Touk and Kayrouz clans in Bcharre, hometown of Lebanese poet and philosopher Gibran Khalil Gibran.

Police said gunmen of the two Maronite Catholic families battled with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in the streets all night after a Touk man was shot to death Tuesday evening.

The fighting scurried mediation efforts by President Amin Gemayel, also a Maronite, to reconcile the two clans that have been political rivals since Lebanon gained independence from France in 1943.

Presidential envoy Tarek Habbshi was holding talks with notables of the two clans when the new fighting erupted, police said.

The two sides clashed in street battles on Sunday and Monday. Police said two people were killed, four wounded and three houses blown up in that fighting.

It erupted when the motorcade of Bcharre's parliament representative Gibran Touk came under gunfire when he drove back to town from a meeting with Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir at his summer residence in neighbouring Diman.

Bcharre is perched on the slopes of the cedars woods in the north Lebanon mountain range some 70 kilometres northeast of Beirut.

Israel jails Arab activists in new West Bank drive

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli authorities in the occupied West Bank have jailed four Palestinian nationalists without trial this week, military sources said Wednesday.

They said Ali Mohammad Mahmoud Ta'amara Dahlia, 26, of Bethlehem, was placed in so-called administrative detention for six months on suspicion of leading a clandestine group. He was the fourth activist interned in the last two days.

Palestinian sources say about 35 residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are being held as administrative detainees. The latest detentions were the first in months.

The arrests followed Israeli moves to curb Palestinian nationalism.

Recent Israeli measures have included setting up roadblocks to seal off university campuses before expected demonstrations, threats to close two publications backing Palestinian guerrilla groups and delaying distribution of Arab newspapers.

Palestinian sources say 18 West Bank residents were placed under "town arrest," under which

suspects may not leave their home town for six months and must stay indoors at night. They include a folk singer penalised for singing nationalist songs.

Mahmoud Abu Zulf, publisher of Al Quds, the largest Arabic daily in East Jerusalem, said Israeli authorities had withheld a licence to sell a new evening newspaper on the West Bank.

The nationalist weekly Al Fajr said last week there appeared to be "a new crackdown on Palestinian nationalist sympathies in the occupied territories."

Israeli security sources privately acknowledged the moves against Palestinian publications but they said the other measures, including administrative detentions, were routine and aimed at ensuring unchallenged military control of day-to-day life in the occupied areas.

Administrative detention, denounced by civil libertarians here and abroad, was introduced by British authorities when they ruled Palestine. Israel maintained the rules against guerrilla suspects after 1948.

Israel adopts loose racism bill and tough anti-PLO law

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's parliament enacted a watered-down anti-racism law and outlawed private contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Wednesday in a trade-off between rival factions of the uneasy "national unity" coalition.

The racism legislation was so weakened that even militant anti-Arab Rabbi Meir Kahane, whose activities it was originally aimed at stopping, voted for the measure, raising both hands.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc backed the bill in exchange for the support of Prime Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party for a law providing up to three years imprisonment for Israelis holding unauthorised contacts with "terrorist organisations."

Under pressure from religious factions in the nine-party government, the anti-racism law omits religious discrimination and stipulates that calls to safeguard Jewish rituals and the "Jewish character of Israel" cannot be viewed as racism.

The religious parties — power-brokers in the fragmented cabinet — had warned that it might otherwise become an offence to quote publicly biblical

passages referring to the Jews as the "chosen people."

Under the final version, a person may be jailed for up to five years for urging discrimination on the basis of race, colour or ethnic background.

The other law limits contacts with Arab groups to journalists and academics in the conduct of their professions.

It does not mention the PLO by name but was designed to stop meeting between left-wing Israelis and PLO leaders such as the June encounter in Tunis between Knesset (parliament) member Mohammad Miar and Yasser Arafat.

Israeli legislators set out to ban racism after Rabbi Kahane won a Knesset seat in 1984 on a platform calling for the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza, and a ban on sex between Jewish women and Arab men.

Victor Shem-Tov, a veteran left-wing legislator, said a "mountain of discussion" had produced a "molehill of law."

Citizens' Rights Movement parliamentarian Shulamit Aloni said: "Kahane and people like him can always find (biblical) passages to quote that will appear to support their views."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (Petra photo)

Shultz says Bush found 'yearning for peace' during Middle East visit

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said on Tuesday he agreed with Vice-President George Bush that there was a "yearning for peace" in the Middle East.

In an interview with USA Today, Mr. Shultz was asked what was the basis for Mr. Bush's optimism for Middle East peace which the vice president cited during press conferences in Israel, Jordan and Egypt in the past 10 days.

Mr. Shultz replied: "What he said was that he found a yearning for peace. And I'm sure that's true. He's a very perceptive person, sensitive, and he felt that. There are also great difficulties. People yearn for peace, but they have a hard time arranging themselves so that direct negotiation between Israel and Israel's neighbours can take place. The vice president went there just as the meeting between the prime minister of Israel and the King of Morocco was winding up. That was kind of a marker, I think, a rather important one — not so much for substance of what was discussed, but just from the fact of the meeting."

He called the trip a "timely mission" and noted Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy had worked to prepare Mr. Bush for the trip and accompanied him to participate in discussions.

Mr. Bush returned to Washington on Wednesday from the Middle East tour that he said gave America the chance to seize the initiative for peace in the region.

Mr. Bush, speaking with reporters as he flew back aboard Air Force One after visits to Israel, Jordan and Egypt, said Tuesday: "There are not many times when you get three countries in this day and age to agree on anything."

At a news conference in Cairo, before flying to the U.S. air base at Mildenhall on his way home, Mr. Bush said, "I am convinced that there is enough common ground for progress to be made in the peace process."

White House spokesman Larry Speakes told a questioner on Tuesday the vice-president's talks in the Middle East "may move in the long run to have assisted the peace process."

He stressed the trip a "timely mission" and noted Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy had worked to prepare Mr. Bush for the trip and accompanied him to participate in discussions.

Baby born aboard Alia flight

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Jordanian woman identified as Mrs. Hafez Mahmoud on Wednesday gave birth to a baby girl aboard an Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, flight from Chicago to Vienna helped by three doctors on board, including a gynecologist.

"We took off with 216 passengers, and are now 217," Reuter quoted a surprised Alia captain as announcing aboard the TriStar, which stopped at Vienna on its way to Amman.

Mrs. Mahmoud, her newborn baby and 10-month-old daughter, disembarked from the airplane in Vienna. "The mother and baby were hospitalised," an Alia crew member told the Jordan Times. "I saw the baby and the mother... They seemed both in good health."

The baby girl was named Wafa' after a hostess on board who took care of the mother and baby during the flight.

The gynecologist, a Pakistani national, supervised the delivery operation, which the Alia crew said, was performed "without any problem" although the baby was premature.

The actual birth — at an altitude of 10,000 metres — occurred over southern England.

Under the circumstances, the baby would have a choice between three nationalities — British, American or Austrian. British because of her birth over Britain, American, because the flight originated from Los Angeles, and Vienna, the destination of the flight.

Alia employees said the new-born baby may be granted free Alia ticket for life. Alia officials were not immediately available for comment.

A similar incident occurred on a Alia flight from Amman to Dhahran five years ago when a Jordanian woman gave birth to a baby boy.

Soviet envoy restates conditions for resuming ties with Israel

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Soviet Ambassador Felix Fedotov declared Wednesday that Moscow will only restore diplomatic relations with Israel if the Jewish state abandons its "expansionist and aggressive policies."

The envoy stressed in a statement issued here: "We are not against the presence of Israel as a state, and we are ready to establish normal relations with Israel."

"But, for this purpose, it is necessary that Israel abandons its expansionist and aggressive policies."

His statement came in advance of Soviet-Israeli talks in Helsinki, Finland, later this month and speculation that the two countries could resume diplomatic relations broken in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Mr. Fedotov stressed that Israel should also "show genuine endeavour to establish a just peace in the Middle East according to U.N. resolutions and principles of the international community."

In his Damascus statement, Mr. Fedotov said: "It is very well known that the USSR has severed

diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967 because of Israeli aggression and its occupation of Arab territories."

He stressed that the Soviet-Israeli talks later this month would deal only with consular matters and would not lead to a change in basic relations.

"As for consular relations between Israel and the USSR, they are necessary to protect the interests and the properties of the citizens of the two countries."

"The forthcoming meeting between consular employees at the consular sections in each of the foreign ministries of the USSR and Israel will constitute, if it takes place, a pure consular affair event, without any changes in basic relations between Israel and the USSR."

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said on Tuesday that if diplomatic relations were restored, Israel would accept a Soviet role in Middle East peace talks.

The Helsinki talks could lead to a setting up of consular offices and a resumption of trade and cultural ties, But Mr. Peres and his right-wing coalition partner,

Milhem sees no objection to mayors

By John Rice Associated Press

AMMAN — A senior PLO official said Wednesday he agrees in principle with plans to appoint Arab mayors for cities in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Executive Committee member Mohammad Milhem said he did not even object to autonomy for the West Bank "if the autonomy is a transition period to something else," a reference, according to Mr. Milhem, the termination of occupation and leaving the people to freely choose their mayors and determine their future.

On mayoral appointments, Mr. Milhem said, "the PLO and Jordan will have to agree (on a candidate), but more important is that any prospect should be acceptable to the people, before Jordan and the PLO."

He noted that the PLO and Jordan had agreed on the appointment of Nablus Mayor Zafar Al Masri, and said plans to appoint other mayors had been frustrated by Mr. Masri's assassination in March, apparently at the hands of Palestinian radicals.

Mr. Milhem, who heads the Occupied Territories Affairs Department of the PLO, was the elected mayor of the West Bank city of Halhoul when Israel deported him in 1980.

Mr. Milhem said on Wednesday that even if a mayor were appointed unilaterally, "then it depends upon the individual himself" as to whether he would be acceptable.

Jordan in February ended efforts to work with the PLO towards peace with Israel. It has

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Pretoria's counter-sanctions to hurt Zambian, Zimbabwean economies

LUSAKA (R) — Zambia and Zimbabwe would suffer because of South Africa's decision to impose economic counter-sanctions against the two states, hankers and diplomats in Lusaka and Harare said Wednesday.

Their comments came as the South African black newspaper, the Sowetan, reported that most South African blacks were bored with the debate over international economic sanctions against South Africa.

"Most of us have become bored with the sanctions debate. While we recognise the sympathy expressed by many people in the world on our serious problems, we do not consider sanctions or non-sanctions an important issue," the paper said in an editorial.

But the paper said this attitude was perhaps mistaken. "The sanctions debate is placing South Africa once more on the television screens of the world and that can only be to our good."

Western diplomats and businessmen in Lusaka said South African curbs on trade with Zambia, announced Tuesday night in retaliation for Commonwealth sanctions against Pretoria, could greatly increase the country's woes, especially since it is already in the midst of a severe economic crisis.

Zambia depends heavily on South Africa, both for imports of machinery for its vital copper mining industry and for South Africa's railways and ports for copper exports.

Last year 64 per cent of Zambia's imports and about a third of its exports were transported through South Africa, and diplomats say prospects are poor of making much greater use of alternative routes such as via Dar Es Salaam, the Indian Ocean terminus of the Chinese-built Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA).

"South Africa's action is just a very small move at no great cost to show publicly the vulnerability of countries like Zambia," a Western diplomat in Lusaka said.

In Harare bankers and economists said South African economic reprisals against Zimbabwe would hurt the economy by slowing trade and making imports and exports more expensive.

Israeli supreme court upholds pardons to Shin Bet chief, 3 agents for Gaza killings

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's supreme court on Wednesday upheld a presidential pardon to the head of the Shin Bet secret service for allegedly ordering the 1984 killings of two captured Palestinians.

The three-judge panel also rejected appeals seeking a commission of inquiry into an alleged cover-up of the killings, indicating that a police investigation into the affair was sufficient.

In documents previously submitted to the court, Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom said all his actions were authorised by his superiors, a statement that appeared to implicate Yitzhak Shamir who was prime minister at the time. The prime minister has sole authority over the Shin Bet. Mr. Shamir, leader of the right-wing Likud bloc in the ruling coalition, is now foreign minister.

Mr. Shamir has contended that he first learned of the cover-up last October when a Shin Bet operative told current Prime Minister Shimon Peres about it.

Previous inquiries found the Palestinians were beaten to death during interrogation immediately after an Israeli commando assault on the bus. Investigations failed to identify the killers.

The court upheld President Chaim Herzog's June 25 pardon of three other Shin Bet officials as well as Shalom, all of whom were accused of concealing the organisation's involvement in the killings of the two Palestinians who were arrested after a bus hijacking in the Gaza Strip.

The court decision means the central figures in the case can no longer be considered as suspects by police. It may encourage other Shin Bet officers involved in the case to seek pardons as well, further complicating any inquiry into the affair.

The court refused to interfere with a government decision that the police investigate the affair instead of launching a more comprehensive judicial inquiry. The decision means the probe will centre only on legal issues and not on the moral or ethical behaviour of political leaders.

The case centres around the hijacking of bus no. 300 in Tel Aviv. The Israeli police versions said four Palestinians

commandeered the crowded bus to the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. Soldiers stormed the bus to free hostages, killing two alleged hijackers and a woman soldier who was a passenger.

The other two alleged hijackers were captured and were seen by news photographers being led away apparently unharmed. An army inquiry later determined they had been beaten to death. A general was tried and acquitted of the murders.

Former attorney general Yitzhak Zamir reopened the case in May, saying he had evidence of the Shin Bet's involvement in the killings. Shalom submitted his resignation June 25 after he and three aides obtained pardon from President Herzog for any crimes that may have been committed. Mr. Herzog's move created a furor since it effectively granted immunity from prosecution before charges were submitted.

Mr. Herzog declined comment on the court decision and said he would not respond. Israel Radio reported.

No replacement for Shalom has been announced, and the agent remains head of the service. The appeals to the supreme

court came after the Israeli government refused to order a judicial inquiry into the affair. After the appeals were filed, the attorney general ordered a police probe.

The court ruling was welcomed by Likud legislator Dan Meridor, who said it meant "there will be no political consequences" to a police probe.

Parliament member and appellant Yossi Sarid said he was not disappointed by the ruling because the appeal itself had forced Attorney General Yosef Harish to order a police probe July 15. "That was our purpose," Mr. Sarid said.

Chief Justice Meir Shamgar and Justice Miriam Ben-Porat ruled that Mr. Herzog had acted within the bounds of the law and that he had the right to pardon an accused criminal.

Justice Aharon Barak dissented on the pardon decision. Mr. Barak wrote that Mr. Herzog "acted without authority" by pardoning before the men were convicted of a crime in court.

The bus affair has Israel between liberals who say that the killings and subsequent pardons threatened the democratic principles of due process by law.

U.S. withdraws subpoenas on 8 Israelis

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has withdrawn grand jury subpoenas on eight Israeli military buyers after Israel agreed to cooperate with an investigation into alleged export of American cluster bomb technology, according to Justice Department officials.

The dropping of the court orders to testify was announced following a series of meetings, including one on Tuesday at the Justice Department, between high-level officials of both countries.

The six-month-old investigation involves reports that Israel smuggled the technical data from American companies after Washington banned the shipment of any equipment used in cluster bombs in 1982.

The ban was imposed after Israel used the devices, which contain numerous small bombs that separate and explode over a target, against civilian areas during its invasion of Lebanon.

At least eight Israelis working at their government's military purchasing office in New York received subpoenas to testify soon before secret grand jury investigations.

The withdrawal of the subpoenas in return for Israel's pledge of cooperation was announced by Assistant Attorney General Stephen Trotter, head of the Justice Department's criminal division. He declined to give details.

Israel has denied any wrongdoing and has charged that Justice Department officials leaked word of the probe as part of a vendetta to damage relations between the two countries.

The subpoenas of Israelis have been withdrawn without prejudice in return for pledges of cooperation by the government of Israel and agreement in providing information relevant to the inquiry, said a statement by Mr. Trotter.

The Israeli government has

contended that at least some of the subpoenaed Israelis were protected by diplomatic immunity, according to the U.S. officials.

The investigation became public a month ago when U.S. agents searched two companies in Iowa and issued subpoenas to a dozen American companies and to the Israeli officials.

The Justice Department and Israel disagreed on whether any of the eight enjoyed diplomatic immunity, officials said.

The investigation added to the already strained relations between Israel and Justice Department prosecutors involving other weapons smuggling charges and an Israeli spy ring involving former U.S. navy analyst Jonathan Pollard.

When the existence of the investigation was publicly disclosed last month, the Israeli defence ministry contended an internal investigation had found

that there "clearly" is no foundation to the allegations.

The Israeli ministry of defence procurement mission in New York City has some 200 employees, who negotiate thousands of contracts each year with U.S. companies in spending \$1.8 billion in military aid grants.

According to the U.S. officials, representatives of Israeli military industries, in late 1984 or early 1985, approached Vector Corp. of Marion, Iowa, which makes medical capsules. The processing to make capsules also can be used to compress and seal bombs.

The officials said the Israelis suggested that the description of the technology be re-labelled so it would not appear to have a use in explosive devices.

The investigation focuses on a possible violation of the arms control export act, which limits defence items that might otherwise be exported from the United States. Exporting of such items must be done under licence.

Feuds between military and Revolutionary Guards said behind Iranian army commander's dismissal

AMMAN (J.T.) — According to reports by news agencies, Sayyad Shirazi, the commander of the Iranian army, was dismissed on Tuesday from his post by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. At present, he retains only a ceremonial and useless position on the supreme defence council, reports said.

Shirazi's dismissal was the consequence of the Khomeini regime's many deadlocks in the war and the continuing series of insoluble disagreements and conflicts between the Revolutionary Guards Corps and military, said the Iranian rebel movement.

Mujahadeen-e-Khalq. Numerous defeats, the regime's military and manpower crisis, the spread of the peace movement within the ranks of the armed forces and the formation of resistance cells and protest groups consisting of the

military personnel are among the causes of these conflicts. Mujahadeen said in a telex received at the Jordan Times.

In addition, the desertion of a large number of military personnel from the war fronts or their flight abroad, the spread of work slow-downs and insubordination, the disabling of military equipment and hardware have prompted Ayatollah Khomeini, more than ever before, to strengthen the guards corps and to give it a more important role in the war. For example, the Mujahadeen said, "one can point to the formation of the three branches of the military, the army, navy and air force, within the guards corps as well as to the allocation of the greatest amount of money, equipment and resources to the armed forces." The rebel movement said

according to reports from its agents within the armed forces, irreconcilable disputes between the military and the guards corps have to date led to numerous clashes between the two. Especially in the past three months, conflicts between Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the guards corps, and Shirazi have resulted in bloody confrontations between their body guards and caused other clashes on several military bases such as the Khatam naval base, it said. In addition, following the occupation of Mehran by Iraq, a number of army officers and commanders were arrested by the guards and executed after a field court martial, it added.

In this respect, reports indicate that the guards corps intends to incorporate the army. To this end, from now on, the Khatam headquarters, one of the joint guards-armed forces war headquarters controlled by the guards corps, will take over from the joint chiefs the task of planning and coordinating the war.

Shirazi was devoted to the Khomeini regime and considered as its most trustworthy army officer. He was ultimately sacrificed by Ayatollah Khomeini in order to resolve the incurable conflicts between the guards corps and the military, according to the rebels. The new commander of the army, Colonel Hossein Hassani-Saadi, whose last post within the Khomeini regime was commander of the army's operational headquarters at the southern front, is notorious within the Iranian army for his lack of initiative and stupidity, added the Mujahadeen telex.

Taba talks reportedly making headway in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian and Israeli negotiators reported fresh progress in resumed talks on Wednesday on a border dispute but differed on whether they could reach complete agreement during this round.

As the talks went into their second day at a luxury hotel in the shadow of the Giza Pyramids, a well-placed diplomatic source said that Egypt and Israel have agreed on an 18-month time-limit for international arbitration of the dispute.

The source, who refused to be identified further, also told the Associated Press that the two sides agreed on deployment of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the disputed Taba area for the duration of arbitration "to maintain the status quo" there.

The negotiators held a one-hour meeting Wednesday morning that was attended by American middlemen.

Egypt's chief delegate Nabil Al Arabi told reporters afterwards: "We have made a lot of progress, but I cannot say if this will be the last round."

"We made a lot of progress, and there remains one outstanding issue," said Avraham Tamir, co-leader of the Israeli team and

director-general of Prime Minister Shimon Peres' office. He would not say what the issue was. Taba is a one-square-kilometre Red Sea beachfront resort claimed by Egypt and Israel. The Israelis retained it after completing withdrawal from the Sinai peninsula in 1982 under the 1979 treaty. An Israeli company built a hotel in Taba during Israel's 15-year occupation of Sinai.

The MFO, a 2,800-strong 11-nation peacekeeping force organised by the United States, was stationed in Sinai and along the Israeli-Egyptian border in 1982 to monitor observance of the treaty.

The current Taba talks opened here Tuesday, coinciding with the final day of an Egyptian visit by U.S. Vice-President George Bush, who told a news conference agreement on the border issue was "very close."

In Washington on Tuesday, State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters "all I can say is that progress has been made in the (Taba) talks."

He noted that Vice President Bush addressed the question earlier in the day during a press conference in Cairo.

Malta said to have warned Libya of April U.S. raids

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The prime minister of Malta said his country gave Libya advance notice of the American air attack in April, the New York Times reported Wednesday.

Prime Minister Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici said Maltese air traffic controllers detected unidentified airplanes on their radar screens 30 to 45 minutes before the raid and notified their Libyan counterparts, the newspaper said.

The prime minister added that there was no indication that Libya acted on the information from Malta, a strategic island located between Sicily and Libya in the Mediterranean.

"If we know that any nation is planning an attack against Libya, we will pass it on, just as we would to Italy, or to the United States," Mr. Mifsud Bonnici said in an interview.

One U.S. air force plane was shot down and its two-man crew was lost in the raids, which were in retaliation for what the United States called Libyan complicity in the fatal bombing of a disco frequented by American soldiers in West Berlin.

Pentagon spokesman Jay Farrar, asked by the Associated

Press about the Maltese official's comments, said, "I can tell you I have nothing that would support that claim at all."

"As far as Department of Defence is concerned, that raid was a tactical surprise," Farrar said. "And based on response of the Libyans, it seemed like a pretty good surprise to me."

Malta, about 560 kilometres north of Libya, has close political and economic ties to Tripoli.

The raids involved carrier-based navy jets and air force F-111 which took off from Britain. U.S. officials have said the element of surprise was key to the "success" of the operation.

Defence Department spokesman Robert Sims was quoted by the Times as saying the Pentagon stood by its earlier assessment that it had achieved "tactical surprise" in the raid.

Mr. Mifsud Bonnici emphasised his country's willingness to share intelligence data with all allies and said Malta was exchanging information on suspected terrorism with Italy, Britain and the United States.

He denied that Libya was using Malta as a base for guerrilla operations.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION

23:05 Evening Show Contd.
23:57 News Headlines
24:00 Close down

PROGRAMME ONE

17:00 Koran
17:20 Cartoons
17:40 Children programmes and cartoons
18:05 The Nightingale
19:00 Programme review
19:05 Religious programme
19:30 News in Arabic
20:00 News programme
20:30 Contests programme
22:00 Arabic Play
23:00 News Summary in Arabic
23:10 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Musique en tete
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties from Jersah Festival
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Sport Magazine
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Carol Burnett and Friends
21:10 Line Street
22:00 News in English
23:20 Feature film: Tender Mercies

RADIO JORDAN

N 3 KHZ, AM & 99 KHZ, FM & partly on 560 KHZ, SW
Tel: 774111-14

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:05 Morning Show
11:00 Pop Session
11:30 Talking about Music
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session Contd.
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Country Music
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Ys Minister
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Special Feature
18:30 Music
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.
21:25 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show Contd.
23:00 News Summary

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME ONE
10:00 Koran
10:30 Children programmes and cartoons
12:30 Friday's Prayer
13:00 Religious programme
14:00 The Knight Rider
15:00 Arabic film
16:00 Programme on Jordan
16:30 Scientific programme
16:55 Arabic series
18:20 Arabic series
19:15 Programme on Jordan
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 News in Arabic
21:30 Islamic programme
22:30 Arabic series
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 French film
18:00 News in French
19:15 French Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Open All Stars
21:10 Finder of Lost Love
22:00 News in English
23:20 Play of the Week: Lady of the Camellias

RADIO JORDAN

N 3 KHZ, AM & 99 KHZ, FM & partly on 560 KHZ, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:05 Morning Show
10:05 Morning Show Contd.
11:00 News Summary

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

The University of Sydney's photographic exhibition of the Agate-Mat archaeological survey at the University of Jordan's Archaeology Museum.

An exhibition entitled "The Statue of Liberty" at the French Cultural Centre (until August 21).

An art exhibition by Marwan Sharabati at the Housing Bank Centre Gallery.

FEATURE FILM

"Amadeus" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 644371
British Council 641520
French Cultural Centre 636147-8
German Cultural Centre 637009
Italian Cultural Centre 641993
Japanese Cultural Centre 639777
Korean Cultural Centre 665195
Hussien Youth City 967181
Y.W.C.A. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 636111
University of Jordan Library 643595

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old, also movies from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Canaan Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.

11:05 Listeners' Choice
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Listeners' Choice
12:30 News Summary
13:05 Country Music
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Jordan Weekly
14:20 News Summary
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 In Concert
17:30 News Summary
18:00 Top Tunes
18:30 News Summary
19:00 Date with a Star
20:00 Melody Time
20:30 Trade Routes
21:00 Talking about Music
21:30 Over a Cup of Tea
22:00 Jazz Hour
22:30 News Summary
23:05 Men from the Ministry

p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 years old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Lions Palestine Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261, 815410

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lawweideh, 637440
Deir el-Sayid (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 661757
Church of the Assomation (Greek Orthodox) Jabel, 623541
Redeemer Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 678906
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 712331
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 712561
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 717751
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational); meets at 12:00 p.m. New York Road, 677534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811289.
Babshah Congregation (International, interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabel Amman, Tel. 606764.

PRAYER TIMES

04:21 Fair
05:45 (Sunrise) Duha
06:20 Dhuhur
12:22 Asr
19:28 Maghrib
21:01 Isha

23:30 The Leopard
24:00 Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1213 KHz
07:00 Newsweek 07:30 Country Style 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News 08:40 World News 08:50 News 09:00 Newsweek 09:05 News 09:10 Newsweek 09:15 News 09:20 Newsweek 09:25 News 09:30 Newsweek 09:35 News 09:40 Newsweek 09:45 News 09:50 Newsweek 09:55 News 10:00 Newsweek 10:05 News 10:10 Newsweek 10:15 News 10:20 Newsweek 10:25 News 10:30 Newsweek 10:35 News 10:40 Newsweek 10:45 News 10:50 Newsweek 10:55 News 11:00 Newsweek 11:05 News 11:10 Newsweek 11:15 News 11:20 Newsweek 11:25 News 11:30 Newsweek 11:35 News 11:40 Newsweek 11:45 News 11:50 Newsweek 11:55 News 12:00 Newsweek 12:05 News 12:10 Newsweek 12:15 News 12:20 Newsweek 12:25 News 12:30 Newsweek 12:35 News 12:40 Newsweek 12:45 News 12:50 Newsweek 12:55 News 13:00 Newsweek 13:05 News 13:10 Newsweek 13:15 News 13:20 Newsweek 13:25 News 13:30 Newsweek 13:35 News 13:40 Newsweek 13:45 News 13:50 Newsweek 13:55 News 14:00 Newsweek 14:05 News 14:10 Newsweek 14:15 News 14:20 Newsweek 14:25 News 14:30 Newsweek 14:35 News 14:40 Newsweek 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Officials discuss cholera prevention campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — Precautionary measures being taken in Jordan to prevent an outbreak of cholera were discussed at a meeting held here Wednesday under the chairmanship of Health Minister Zaki Hamzeh.

The meeting, attended by senior health officials and directors of government hospitals, discussed in particular on anti-cholera campaign during the present pilgrimage season. Recent reports from Saudi Arabia said

that a number of cholera cases have appeared among pilgrims and strict measures have been taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Dr. Hamzeh requested health officials to maintain close cooperation with public and private organisations and health centres to help carry out cleanliness campaigns in their regions. He also said all laboratories should be supplied with sufficient medicines.

3 pilgrims die of old age at holy sites in S. Arabia

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs has reported the death of three pilgrims in the holy places of Saudi Arabia who passed away while performing their pilgrimage rites. A spokesman for the ministry said that the three, who all died of old age, were two women and one man who came from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The rest of the pilgrims were reported in good health and have now arrived at their lodgings in Mecca after their visits to Medina, the spokesman said.

The ministry's mission and a

health team are accompanying the pilgrims to offer assistance, medical help and advice, the spokesman added.

All the pilgrims have now crossed into Saudi Arabia on their way to Medina and Mecca for the annual pilgrimage, and the Saudi Arabian authorities said they would close the border to Jordanian pilgrims as of midnight on Wednesday. The ministry's under secretary Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi is leading the ministry's mission which supervises services to the pilgrims.

Committee organises procedures to distribute meat to needy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs will take charge of distributing meat which will be sent to Jordan from Mecca where sheep are slaughtered before the Eid Al Adha (Eid of the sacrifice). The carcasses are sent to Jordan and other Islamic countries in refrigerated trucks to be distributed to poor families and needy people at the end of the

pilgrimage.

A meeting was held at the ministry on Wednesday under the chairmanship of the ministry's under secretary, Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, to discuss a programme for distributing the meat. A committee was formed at the meeting to supervise the work of sub-committees in various regions.

Dudin reviews health issues, projects for occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin said Wednesday that his ministry, in cooperation with health sectors in the occupied territories, has been directing special attention to the health conditions of Arab inhabitants under Israeli rule. He said that a health programme will be implemented in the Arab territories along with other projects included in the projected Jordanian five-year plan.

The minister was speaking at a meeting with Dr. Mohammad Kamal, director of the hospitals department in the occupied West Bank, who presented a briefing on the general health conditions of Arab people and projects to be carried out by hospitals and health centres to promote medical services.

Later Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, the under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, met with Mr. Farouk Al Hamdallah, member of the Lower House of Parliament from Toulkarem constituency. Mr. Hamdallah briefed the official on the general conditions of people in his region and development projects needed to bolster the Arab people's steadfastness.

Qatanani receives Freij

Later Wednesday, Dr. Qatanani received Mayor of Bethlehem Elias Freij for discussions on development projects in the Bethlehem area as well as the priorities of projects which will be listed within the five-year development plan for occupied Arab territories.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma attends the inauguration ceremony of a new building for housing orphans in Zarqa, which she has opened on Wednesday (Petra photo)

Princess Basma opens new building for charitable society in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday opened a new building for housing orphans, supervised by the Omar Ibn Al Khattab charitable society in Zarqa, and donated JD 3,000 from the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASWF) to the society.

Princess Basma, who is president of the QASWF, attended the inauguration ceremony for the new building and the society's president outlined the main projects and charity programmes, the society has been carrying out in the Zarqa

region. Later, Princess Basma met with heads of charitable societies in Zarqa to discuss the general conditions of these societies and the work they are conducting, such as offering assistance and vocational training to needy families. She promised to meet with these officials later on for a follow up discussion on the subject.

Donations

She also announced the fund's donation to the Omar Ibn Al Khattab charitable society, which

also received JD 1,000 from the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and other unspecified sums of money from those attending the ceremony.

Before the ceremony, Princess Basma visited the Islamic Cultural Charitable Society in Zarqa, inspected its sections and was briefed on its services and projects. The society, she was told, offers care and accommodation to homeless and destitute girls aged between six and 14 years. Princess Basma later announced that the QASWF is donating a bus and GUVS is making a contribution of JD 750 to the society.

Delegations of Arab children visit Irbid

IRBID (J.T.) — Arab children who are taking part in the sixth Arab children's conference, which began in Amman on Tuesday, Wednesday paid a visit to Irbid Governorate. They were received upon arrival by Irbid's Acting Governor Hussein Al Abboudi who briefed them on the social, historical and economic aspects of the governorate and on the archaeological and tourist sites in the governorate.

The Arab children also visited Irbid Municipality's club for children and met with Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat who briefed them on the city and the recreation facilities in Irbid. The director of the club also briefed the Arab children on the services offered by the club.

Yarmouk University in Irbid was also visited by the Arab children who were briefed by the university's public relations director Majed Bhanma on its developments and future plans. A total of 56 children from 14 Arab countries are taking part in the conference which will last until Aug. 11.

The conference, also called the meeting of common Arab culture by the organisers, aims to develop the personalities of participating children and to orient the visiting children on Jordan's progress and development.

The conference has been organised by a special committee grouping representatives from the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Youth, the General Union of Voluntary Societies, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Interior Ministry, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, the Ministry of Tourism, and the Haya Arts Centre.

Sixteen Jordanian children are taking part in the conference which will include a programme of excursions to historical, religious and military sites in the Kingdom.

Mu'ta University draws up expansion plans

KARAK (Petra) — Mu'ta University near Karak, southern Jordan, has plans to build different faculties for its new civilian wing on an area of 5,000 dunums and work on the administration building is due to start in the coming months, Mu'ta University President Ali Mahafza announced Wednesday.

He said for the time being, the civilian wing of the university will be housed at the Karak Community College, which is owned by the Ministry of Education.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Mahafza said that the university has also prepared a comprehensive programme for meeting Jordan's requirements of skilled manpower to help carry out development projects and has worked out a programme for training its own staff. According to these plans, Mu'ta will send at least 180 students on post-graduate scholarships abroad and some have already completed their studies and returned to work at Mu'ta, the president said.

The university has been named after the famous Mu'ta battle between the Muslims and the Byzantines and was established to teach military sciences, he explained. But this year the Ministry of Higher Education announced that a civilian wing will be opened to help cope with the increasing number of students who have completed their secondary education and who are seeking higher education, Dr. Mahafza pointed out.

He said that the land for the university has been bought from local inhabitants and the rest is state-owned land and that the total area is sufficient for buildings to house different faculties and services.

According to Dr. Mahafza, the university will accept only 300 students this year in the faculties of Arabic, English, administration, law and education. The students will be attending classes five days a week



Ali Mahafza

for one to four hours daily and the university will think of organising transport for the students from and to neighbouring villages if transport facilities are not available or regular. Dr. Mahafza said. He went on to say that the university is in contact with the Ministry of Higher Education regarding the provision of lodgings for female students but he added that units present at the community college and the temporary wing are sufficient for the present.

Male students, he said, can rent homes in villages around Mu'ta which are supplied with water and electricity and provide good transport facilities from and to the campus.

Many of the post graduate students studying abroad are preparing for their doctorate degrees in the United States, the United Kingdom, France and West Germany and more will be sent in the light of the university's requirements and needs, Dr. Mahafza said. As to the selection of students, he said the university abides by regulations set by the Ministry of Higher Education.

King and Mubarak meet

(Continued from page 1)

administration ignores every chance to push matters towards a just solution in the Middle East and there will be nothing positive from America or Israel as long as the Arabs are fragmented." In the same interview, Mr. Wazir said the PLO was keen to avoid an escalation of differences with Jordan, and supported efforts by Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iraq for a reconciliation.

Mr. Wazir said that the PLQ Executive Committee will be meeting next week in the Iraqi capital to discuss several issues including the possibility of inviting the Palestine National Council to convene.

Milhem: No objection to mayors

(Continued from page 1)

since announced plans to give greater financial aid to West Bankers and to support appointment of Arab mayors in place of Israeli military authorities.

Asked if he thought Jordan was trying to compete with the PLO, Mr. Milhem said, "if the competition is to make the Israelis withdraw, if the competition is to make the life easier for people, we (the PLO) have never been against it."

He repeated the PLO's call for mayoral elections on the West Bank.

"When (Israeli Prime Minister Shimon) Peres speaks of autonomy, if he means real

Mr. Wazir said the executive committee would also discuss Algerian efforts to arrange a reconciliation conference for the bickering PLO units, and the outcome of the meeting of Moroccan King Hassan II with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), in a dispatch from Moscow on Wednesday, said representatives of PLO factions had wound up Soviet-sponsored meetings aimed at reconciling among them.

The agency quoted the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine as calling on all PLO factions to transcend differences and unite.

autonomy, he should let the people choose their mayors," Mr. Milhem said.

Mr. Milhem was interviewed at his office in Amman, located in one of the PLO buildings operating normally here following Jordan's July 8 closure of offices of Fateh.

Asked about Soviet plans to discuss restoring consular relations with Israel, Mr. Milhem said, "if the restoration of (Israeli) relations with the Soviet Union ... will lead to an international conference (on Middle East peace), which will, I hope, lead to genuine peace, then let this be."

But, he added, he was against the meeting if "the restoration of relations is meant as propaganda for Israel."

Shant Voskian

Ara and Rozine Voskian had their first born, a baby boy weighing 3.4 kilograms, at 7.45 p.m. on Wednesday evening. Ara, editor of World and Middle East news at the Jordan Times, and Rozine had long waited for their son, whom they named Shant, which in Armenian means lightning. The mother and child are in good health, and they are expected to join Ara and his mother Sonia at home in the next couple of days. Mabrouk.

Bedouin traditions — underestimated legacy of the desert

By Josephine Zanabini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Of the many influences constituting the make-up of the Twentieth Century Arab, none has been of greater importance than the bedouin. The language, the spirit, the religion and the social structure of today's Arabs are a definite legacy of the tribes of the Arabian peninsula. Through the millennia of "history, little information" was recorded concerning the bedouins. However, the linguistic links of the ancient world suggest the Semitic people of the Jazirah Al Arab were the resource pool for the great surrounding civilisations of antiquity — the Babylonians, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Amorites, Aramaeans, Phoenicians and the Nabataeans, who all shared a common linguistic heritage.

Semitic languages have risen and fallen with the powerful surrounding empires. Canaanite, the tongue of the bible, was swept away by the huge social and linguistic reorganisation at the time of the Persian invasion of the Near East. Aramaic then became the dominant Semitic language for a thousand years, only to be replaced by Arabic, the youngest of the group, at the time of the Arab conquests.

The various branches of the Semitic linguistic group share overwhelming similarities; "the verbal stem is triconsonantal, the tense has two forms — past and present, verb conjugations follow a similar pattern, vocabulary components are inescapably similar — including personal pronouns, nouns denoting blood kinship, numbers and certain names for parts of the body," according to Professor Philip Hitti in his book "History of the Arabs."

Anthropologists maintain the inhospitable desert and the water-locked nature of the Arabian peninsula forced migration out of the desert centre towards the fertile north and west in Iraq, Syria and Palestine. These successive waves of migration witnessed continuous Semitic settlement in the fertile Tigris-Euphrates valley by the Babylonians, Assyrians and Chaldeans. By 2500 B.C., the Amorites and Canaanites had occupied Syria and around 1500 B.C. the Aramaeans moved to the north-west. Other migrations followed. The Nabataeans, rulers of Petra gradually occupied south Jordan around 600 B.C., easing the Edomites into south Palestine.

The final and most far reaching migration out of Arabia came in the seventh century A.D. Under the banner of Islam, the armies of Muhammad victoriously swept out of the peninsula and half way across the earth. At its peak, the power of Islam stretched from Spain to China and gave the world some of the finest treatises in science, mathematics, astrology, geography, medicine and music.

Migration

The migrations out of Arabia

constitute a phenomenon of pastoral desert dwellers — the nomadic Arabians, assimilating with the settled agricultural communities surrounding them. The integration process was largely peaceful with the newcomers invariably learning much from the original inhabitants. The glorious Semitic Babylonian civilisation was not created upon a void but based upon Sumerian learning and sophistication. The non-Semitic Sumerians initiated the newcomers into house building, farming, irrigation and above all else the rudiments of writing. The Nabataeans of Petra did not leave the desert with an understanding of cropping, irrigation, smithing or probably pottery. These practices, which the Nabataeans refined, were originally learnt from the Edomites.



A bedouin encampment at Wadi Rum where visitors are welcomed with traditional bedouin warmth and hospitality (J.T. file photo)

But who were these proud people who contributed so greatly to the civilisations of the ancient world and formed the cornerstone of one of the world's most populous religions? The characteristics of the bedouin people remained marked by, "a deep religious instinct, vivid imagination and pronounced individuality," writes professor Hitti.

The powerful impulse that drove successive generations out of Arabia can be understood in the adventurous nature of the bedouins as well as the hostile climatic conditions of the peninsula. For every tribesman, excitement was compelling, to the extent that raiding became a national sport with distinct rules obeyed by both attackers and defenders.

Professor Hitti likens Semitic migrations to those of the Europeans into the New World. Severe economic disaster, the failure of crops, the spirit of exploration or the desire to escape wars and destruction moved millions of Europeans westward. For the Semites of Arabia conflict over water and pastures, droughts and changes in the caravan routes brought about economic deprivation. Coupled with an adventurous spirit, migration became inevitable.

For all its harshness, the Arabian desert remained a

dynamic place, well traversed by trade routes and certainly not lacking in natural resources. The frankincense tree, which figured prominently in the early commercial life of south Arabia, the coffee plant, introduced from Abyssinia — always the bedouin's favoured beverage, the tamarind tree providing a pungent, flavoured fruit and an excellent source of charcoal and of course the date, plain, the staple of the bedouin diet. Arab authors list one hundred varieties of date in the Medina area alone.

Camels

Although the herds of sheep and goats accompanying each tribe provided milk and leban, it was to the camel that the bedouins owe their survival in the desert. Life in the badia would be inconceivable without the camel

made it pleasurable. The Arabian horse — renowned as the basis of all blood stock — remained a luxury in the waterless desert. Owing such an animal presupposed wealth and the animal is until today the status symbol of the desert. Used for its speed in wars, raiding expeditions — (ghazw) and hunting — (jarid), the Arabian horse with its swift gait, and high intelligence remains an integral part of the bedouin encampment today.

One of the most important aspects of the bedouin life-style was weaving. Without the loom, the physical comforts of the desert would be non-existent. The *bait al sha'ar*, made of camel's or goat's hair, was produced on the loom; similarly rugs, blankets, cushions, tent dividers as well as tethering ropes, camel saddle bags, horse's bridles and general tote bags were

woven by bedouin women on the primitive ground loom using the wool of the tribe's flock of sheep. Dyed into bright reds, browns, oranges, and green tones using natural materials such as indigo, sumac, mulberry leaves, pomegranate, onion skins and cochineal, tribal women crafted dramatic geometrical-patterned rugs, ropes and so on, in a primitively magnificent style.

Women of the tribe

Bedouin women — protected by the fierce code of ethics governing the desert — were always freer than city women. Wearing no veil the tribal woman chose her own husband, left him if ill-treated, controlled her own herd of sheep or goats and wandered far into the desert unaccompanied by her men folk. The women of the tribes worked hard, packing camels, foraging for fire wood, cooking and weaving.

For the tribesmen, the only occupations worthy of a man "were sheep and camel raising, horse breeding, hunting and raiding." Agriculture, trade and craft were beneath the bedouin's dignity and were considered lowly occupations for a man.

The millennia of isolation in the waterless desert enabled the bedouin to preserve the purity of his blood and language. No foreign power ever dominated the tribesmen and even the greatest

Weaker tribes unable to fight against the more powerful, generally allied themselves to a larger clan for protection. Kinship and the collective spirit — *asabiyyah* — were the dominant features of the tribal community. Each of the many tribes of the badia viewed itself as a single entity; an injury to one was seen as an injury to all.

The passage of bedouin history has been long and largely underestimated. Through thousands of years, the dynamic Arabian desert-dwellers contributed fresh energy to the surrounding civilisations. The Twentieth Century certainly witnessed the end of Near Eastern nomadism, yet the tribe and the spirit of the bedouins remain proudly alive.

Whilst the camel made life in the desert possible, the horse

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In order to be safe

JORDAN'S central location in the Middle East region has made the country open to active trade and tourism, but at the same time it has rendered the country vulnerable to drug trafficking and infectious diseases. The authorities, although keen on offering facilities for traders and tourists, have been careful in taking measures to stem illicit trade of drugs and the spread of disease. The Health Ministry's recently announced measures to prevent an outbreak of cholera in Jordan are to be commended since they coincide with reports of outbreaks in neighbouring Saudi Arabia among Muslims performing this year's pilgrimage.

Jordan has been cholera-free since 1981, thanks to the strict precautionary measures for controlling food supplies and drinking water imposed by the health and municipal authorities throughout the Kingdom. But since cholera could not be wiped out completely, there is always the possibility that it might reappear in any country, especially in areas that lack proper cleanliness and whose population fail to keep their homes and streets clean and hygienic. Jordan has more than 12,000 pilgrims in Medina and Mecca at present, performing this year's pilgrimage along with tens of thousands of Muslims from other parts of the Islamic World. In addition, Jordan has served as a transit point for the passage of other thousands of Muslims from the occupied lands in the west, Iraq in the east and Syria and Lebanon from the north, and all are bound to mix with other worshippers during their stay in the holy places, and always with the possibility of contracting the disease. It is not necessary that a pilgrim, eating, drinking and sleeping in Saudi Arabia for some time, contracts the disease himself but it is always possible for him or her to be a carrier of the disease without being aware of it. Since vaccination against cholera is only partially effective and cannot prevent an outbreak, the alternative is to create an atmosphere of cleanliness, unfavourable for cholera to breed in, and hygienic home and streets that are quite safe for the inhabitants.

In a lecture he delivered on Tuesday, Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Kawabdeh estimated the capital's present inhabitants at one million. In such a big place of gathering of people, the chance for the spread of the disease is always present. An intensive cleanliness campaign to back up the health authorities' programmes, together with stricter control measures at border posts and airports and medical examinations on returning pilgrims are essential precautionary measures that could be taken to keep Jordan safe.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Fighting the political war

IT has become clear now that the Soviet Union and Israel are embarking on negotiations in Helsinki on Aug. 17 to pave the way for restoring their consular relations. The Soviet Union has been keen on pointing out that it wants consular and not diplomatic ties with Israel, and that this step is not a prelude to resuming diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. Israel for its part, announced that this step is also linked to Israel's many other demands of the Soviet Union including one for allowing Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel. Thus, Israel is trying hard to exact a price from Moscow for resuming partial relations between the two sides, and of course the price will be at the expense of the Arab Nation. Therefore, the Arabs should not sit idly and keep a closed eye as to those developments but should rather take the matter up with Moscow and make sure that the deal will not be at their expense and their interests. No Arab can forget the positive stand of the Soviet Union behind Arab causes, and the Soviets also realise that they enjoy an excellent reputation in the Arab World. Therefore, Moscow ought to protect this reputation and its interests with the Arabs by thwarting Israel's evil intentions and objectives.

Al Dustour: Frustration of a good friend

IRRESPECTIVE of what Moscow has been saying about the start of negotiations with Israel on the resumption of some sort of relations between the two sides, all indications point to the fact that it was the Soviet Union which took the initiative for the talks. No doubt it did so after close assessment of developments in the Middle East and after monitoring all that has been happening and bound to happen in this region. Over the past few months, Moscow has been dropping hints on the prospect of resuming relations with Israel; and the recent meeting between an Israeli ambassador and high-ranking Soviet official in a Western capital represented the clearest hint. We view this development as a prelude to a change in the political stands of the Soviet Union towards the Middle East countries. Perhaps this political change has come about as a result of Moscow's frustration with the Arab World, which is weak, divided and in disarray, a situation which is not useful even for the Arabs' friends. We are afraid that this first step between Moscow and Tel Aviv will lead to the resumption of full diplomatic ties between the two sides. But in the meantime we believe that a more united and stronger Arab stand would save Moscow the trouble of offering concessions to our common enemy.

Sawt Al Shaab: Helping those under occupation

IN an interview with Sawt Al Shaab, Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij spoke about the plight of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule and the sufferings they are facing as a result of Israel's measures in the occupied territories. This painful situation should prompt the Arabs not only to express support, but to actually extend assistance to their brothers by all means. Priority should be given to the Arab people of Palestine who are now striving to safeguard Arab homeland and prevent the Israelis from Judaizing Arab territory. There should be solidarity with the Palestinian people suffering from the consequences of Israeli occupation and national interests should over-ride any other considerations. Needless to say that military solution in the light of the weak and divided Arab Nation is not possible as the Arabs are not capable of confronting their enemies since they lack the will and determination. Therefore the least they can do is to extend help to their kinsmen and work hard for the establishment of a peaceful settlement according to U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

By Franz Schurmann

While America vacations, secret diplomacy continues

SAN FRANCISCO — A kind of political slumber has come over the United States during this mid-summer period. There is little excitement in Washington or the country as a whole over any political issues. Perhaps this is because summer is vacation time, and people want to conserve their energies for pleasure and not politics.

Yet it is clear to all of us who observe American foreign affairs, especially in the Middle East, that a lot of secret diplomacy is underway. The visit of the Israeli Prime Minister Peres to Morocco was a sign of that secret diplomacy. Behind the scenes we could sense the hand of Washington in these affairs.

The Sharq al-Ausat of July 21 has a cartoon showing Vice-President George Bush

driving in a car on a road heading to the Arab countries. But behind him sat an Israeli steering the car. The Peres visit to Morocco naturally aroused interest in the United States, but not that much. Obviously the American media would like to see a repetition of the Sadat approach in the Middle East. But for the moment even the Middle East crisis seems to have become more remote.

The release of an American hostage by the Islamic Jihad also aroused no great emotions in the media. But clearly it was widely welcomed. It was seen as a sign that Syria is becoming co-operative. And that is important because it makes it harder for the Israelis to drum up anger against Syria for "harbouring terrorists." And reports of the efforts of Jordan to

bring Iraq and Syria together do get space in American newspapers. The feeling one senses in the media is that even if the diplomacy is secret, the main thing is that there be results.

I keep on wondering whether this milder trend in American foreign policies is related to the now evident improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations. The change in tone has been remarkable. No one in the Reagan administration now talks about the Soviets as some "evil empire." The Soviet image in the U.S. media has also changed radically. There are frequent photographs showing Soviet leaders in familiar human poses such as one sees for Western leaders (and as were common some years back when Chinese leaders were shown in similar ways).

Is it valid to say that when U.S.-Soviet relations are bad, then the U.S. link to Israel gets stronger? And, conversely, when those relations improve, then the United States swings back a little towards its Arab friends. Certainly in tone anyway there is a detectable difference between last winter and this summer in the way Israel and the Arab World are being treated in the American press. At that earlier time, Arabs were painted as "terrorists" and the press was full of remembrances of Nazi murders of millions of Jews. This summer little is said about Arabs, and the remembrances have vanished, supplanted by occasional but significant news that the Israelis have spied on the U.S., illegally acquired military weapons (like the terrible "cluster bombs"), and coverage of the "Shin Beth affair"

in Israel.

There also is a sense within the establishment that Washington would like to get something done in the Middle East before Peres turns over the government to the rightwinger Shamir this coming October. And the only way even the most tiny of advances can be made in the Middle East is quietly. When there is a lot of publicity, it invariably is conflict which is featured. And the publicity creates even more conflict.

Of course, any advances that are real must ultimately achieve something about the three major conflicts affecting the Middle East: (1) the Iraq-Iran war, (2) the disunity in Lebanon, and (3) the Palestine issue. If there are no advances or the advances are not real, then conflict will again erupt.

In the past (and even now, as in the South Africa and Nicaragua matters), Washington often only begins moving in constructive directions when pressure is applied from below or from the outside. But this time it could be that Washington does not need such pressure. Even the most pro-Israeli officials know full well that the Middle East remains a highly explosive region. The secret diplomacy can produce results if in regard to Lebanon the United States encourages Syria and in regard to the Palestinians issue takes the Palestinians seriously (and not just blindly follows Tel Aviv's conception of the issue). In regard to the Iraq-Iran war, things are more complicated. But if two of the crises can be eased, then a third one (any third one, in fact) can also be eased.

Stroessner's government cracks down on media

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

ASUNCION — Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner's government is cracking down on criticism of his 32-year rule with methods that are alleged to range from jamming radio broadcasts to beating up foreign correspondents.

Diplomats, journalists and human rights organisations say the government is also using economic blackmail, threats and intimidation to silence voices of opposition to a president who has held power since 1954 and won six elections — each with more than 90 per cent of the vote.

"This government's fear of the truth is tremendous," said Humberto Rulin, owner of Paraguay's Radio Nanduti, one of the chief targets of the Stroessner administration's wrath. "They go to great lengths to shut us up."

Efforts to silence Radio Nanduti appear obvious and audible: Whenever a broadcast touches on a sensitive subject, it is drowned by a shrill beep.

"Paraguay is now one of only eight countries in the world which jam radio broadcasts," said a Western ambassador.

The Stroessner administration zeroed in on radio stations after closing ABC Colour, Paraguay's most popular newspaper, on March 22, 1984, for "subverting public order, endangering peace in the republic, spreading seditious opinions, promoting confusion and social alarm ... and threatening the moral health of the Paraguayan people."

Franciscan priest Javier Arancón, the Spanish director of church-run Radio Caritas — a small broadcasting station which provided extensive coverage of public demonstrations against Stroessner's rule last April and May — was barred from reentering Paraguay on June 30 after a trip to Argentina. The government announced two days later he would not be allowed to return but gave no reason.

"We are considered communists and subversives," said Radio Caritas news editor Guillermo Yaluf. "The government says we are mixing in politics. We think that everyone has a right to his opinion and we

have the duty to report it."

Trying to sound out the opinion of Paraguayan peasants, Radio Caritas reporter Selo Velazquez was seized recently by plainclothes police and frog-marched 12 kilometres to the nearest jail, his hands manacled behind his back.

Yaluf said the reporter was held incommunicado for a week.

"There have also been death threats against people working for Radio Caritas," he said. "I had three anonymous telephone calls saying, 'if you don't change your (editorial) line, you will pay with your life. We fear what the future might hold.'"

Foreigners have not been exempt from the government's dislike of independent journalists: In April, police beat up three members of a West German Television crew and smashed camera equipment worth \$40,000.

The West German embassy despatched press attaché Armin Steuer to the scene — where he was promptly beaten up as well. Bonn lodged an official protest.

On arrival in Asunción in mid-July, this reporter aroused the displeasure of airport authorities with a passport containing Cuban and Nicaraguan visas.

He was held at the airport for over an hour and then told his passport and all his papers would be seized and taken to the police department for investigations.

Asked for his name and a receipt for the confiscated material, a police officer shouted at the reporter and started shouting him around the room. The seized material was returned five hours later, with apologies.

"A first-hand lesson in the government's attitude toward the free press," remarked a Western diplomat, "and a display of inept public relations."

The government views things differently. "There is a systematic campaign to distort Paraguay's reality abroad," government spokesman Anibal Fernandez said. "We have a democracy here ... and our constitution is one of the most advanced in Latin America."

Radio Nanduti's Rubin said the government decided in January to close the station but decided when the U.S. embassy intervened.



U.S.-Soviet relations appear warming again

By Bary Schweid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S.-Soviet relations could be on the upswing again as the two sides have set a September meeting to plan the agenda for a summit between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

The scheduling of a visit to Washington by Eduard A. Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Sept. 19-20 means there will be an effort to resolve agenda problems.

But so far, U.S. officials said Monday, the Soviets have not set a date for Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, to come to Washington to meet with the American President.

In fact, Gorbachev has not reiterated his intention to have a Washington summit this year since he agreed to 1986 and 1987 summits in his meeting last November with Reagan in Geneva.

"I'm sure we'll be aiming for something this year," said an official, who insisted on anonymity. But, he said, Gorbachev has held off setting a date until he can be sure "something substantive" will be accomplished.

The Soviet leader has tried to put the focus on curbing nuclear

weapons. Reagan has called for sharp reductions, but the administration wants the agenda focused also on human rights, the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and other knotty issues.

Gorbachev announced last week the planned withdrawal of six regiments, amounting to about 6,000 soldiers, from Afghanistan by the end of the year.

But U.S. officials said the only acceptable solution would be for Moscow to set a timetable for the withdrawal of all Soviet forces, estimated by the West at 118,000, over a short period.

A U.S.-Soviet meeting will be held on Afghanistan, probably in early September, providing important clues of Soviet intentions and summit prospects, officials said.

In assessing prospects for a summit, these officials are eager to see Moscow's response to the letter Reagan sent to Gorbachev two weeks ago outlining U.S. plans for a space-based defence.

Arms control negotiations are due to resume in Geneva on Sept. 18, the day before Shevardnadze sees Shultz. But officials said the Soviets might react a few days or weeks earlier to Reagan's latest proposals for cutbacks mixed with defence.

The Soviets also will have several chances to register their views about a summit in

diplomatic meetings here and in Moscow in the weeks before Shevardnadze's arrival.

No date has been set for the long-delayed summit itself, State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman said in announcing the talks between Shultz and Shevardnadze.

However, another U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "In the sense that we're going to take these steps I am more optimistic" of a summit by year's end.

Summit preparations were slowed by a slump in U.S.-Soviet relations after Reagan and Gorbachev met last November.

But in a recent exchange of letters, Reagan and Gorbachev asserted their determination to sharply reduce U.S. and Soviet nuclear weapons — notwithstanding an apparent conflict in their approaches.

U.S. and Soviet delegations also have met in Geneva on nuclear weapons tests and on the two strategic arms limitation treaties that Reagan intends to scrap.

Reagan and Gorbachev had agreed on a 1986 summit in Washington and a 1987 summit in Moscow. The Soviet leader had been expected here in late June or July.

But the U.S. attack on Libya in April prompted the Soviets to

cancel a Shevardnadze visit in May. Subsequently, Reagan announced he no longer would observe the unratified 1979 SALT II treaty, which imposed ceilings on various U.S. and Soviet long-range nuclear weapons.

Last week, a U.S. delegation in Geneva informed the Soviets that the 1972 SALT I treaty, which set interim constraints, also would be abandoned.

Reagan and Gorbachev have asserted, however, that nuclear weapons on both sides must be curbed. Negotiations are due to resume in the Swiss city in September, dealing also with the U.S. anti-missile research programme known commonly as "Star Wars."

The earliest practical date for a summit meeting is late November since Reagan has ruled out a Gorbachev visit during the U.S. congressional elections campaign.

A U.S. official estimated a summit could be held within two months of agreement on an agenda.

It is likely to cover four broad areas: Arms control, regional conflicts, U.S.-Soviet relations and human rights.

The Soviets want to concentrate on the nuclear weapons issue, while the Reagan administration sees arms control as an important topic but not one that should dominate the summit.

New book says Christ, Marx and Sandino were of one mind

By Richard Boudreaux
The Associated Press

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Augusto Sandino who waged guerrilla war against U.S. occupation of Nicaragua was neither a Marxist nor a Christian. Today, 52 years after his death, he has been converted to both beliefs by a new book.

A skinny little man with a 10-gallon hat, Sandino stares from portraits everywhere in Nicaragua, officially revered for his "anti-imperialism." But his other views — he was a theosophist and spiritualist who rejected the thinking of his Communist allies — have posed a problem for some ideologists in Nicaragua.

Their solution was unveiled with literary fanfare Friday night as 170 guests, including cabinet ministers, priests and theologians, gathered for the dedication of a book affirming that Christ, Marx and Sandino shared the same beliefs.

The book is titled "Sandinism, Marxism and Christianity in the new Nicaragua." It was written by Giulio Girardi, a 60-year-old Marxist professor of philosophy at the University of Cagliari in Italy and a former member of the Salesian Brothers religious order.

Painstakingly, Girardi argues that whatever Sandino thought he was, his ideals would qualify him to call himself a Marxist-Christian today.

More useful for Christians in the ruling Sandinista National

Revolutionary Front, the 457-page volume supplies the weightiest arguments yet against the growing skepticism of church authorities, that a Marxist-Leninist revolution can march hand-in-hand with the Roman Catholic faith professed by 80 per cent of their countrymen.

This book is highly subversive for the Western Christian world because it says that Christianity and revolution are the same thing. Ernesto Cardenal, a priest who is Nicaragua's minister of culture, said at the book dedication party.

Other speakers criticised the church hierarchy for its misgivings about the revolution and defended the expulsion last month of the most outspoken bishop, Monsignor Pablo Antonio Vega, for what the government called unpatriotic statements.

"The genius of this work is to show that Marxist Leninism, in its Sandinista form, reserves a place of honour for the church," said the Rev. Uriel Molina. "I hope our bishops read it and learn once and for all that our revolution does not come from Soviet manuals."

Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, the Archbishop of Managua, said he had not read the book. But he rejected its premise that Christianity is compatible with Marxism and accused the government of using "a belligerent group of priests, nuns and lay people to undermine the unity of the church."

"When the regime wants to

harass the church, it pushes these people forward," the cardinal said in an interview.

With the official Catholic Radio and printing press closed by decree, Obando complained, only a pro-government, minority branch of the church enjoys freedom of expression.

Girardi's book has been reviewed in the government-controlled press. His research was sponsored by the Antonio Valdivieso centre, a think tank in Managua for Liberation Theologists that is funded by the World Council of Churches and headed by Molina, a

Franciscan priest.

Liberation Theologists support the regime, they say, out of a central belief that the Christian mission to help the poor should assume the character of Marxist class struggle.

Sandino, Girardi writes in his book, would have embraced Liberation Theology had it existed in his time. Instead, the book says, he rejected Christianity because church leaders blessed the U.S. marines whom he fought from 1927 until their withdrawal in 1933.

A year later Sandino was killed by the national guard that had

been set up by the United States. In 1979, Marxist guerrillas fighting in his name defeated the guard, ending 45 years of rightist dictatorship by the U.S.-backed Somoza family.

Girardi argues that Sandino's goal of popular uprising was akin to the Marxist concept of a proletarian vanguard, even though Sandino voiced dislike for the idea of class struggle. In any case, the author writes, Sandino may have obscured his Marxism to rally "bourgeois" opposition to the American occupation.

What's important today, the

author said in an interview, is not rigid doctrine but the revolution's "popular inspiration." He said his book is addressed to Sandinista militants and warns them against becoming dictators.

Interior Minister Tomas Borge, the hard-line Sandinista front founder whose internal security police hunts dissidents, turned up at Friday night's dedication and said he found the book "enlightening."

A Marxist with vaguely defined religious views, Borge said: "With each passing day, I am coming to admire the real Christianity."

Pentagon tests news media pool for war in secret drill

By Christopher Hanson
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Defence Department contacted a select group of news media bureau chiefs on Friday (Aug. 1) with a confidential message which might have signalled war.

The Pentagon's news media "war pool" had been activated, navy captain Steven Taylor told them.

The 13 reporters and photographers in the pool, including a Reuter correspondent, were to be at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington within three hours, wearing heavy boots and carrying their gear in rucksacks, ready to report on combat from the field.

Absolute secrecy must be

maintained, Taylor stressed. He declined to say whether or not the operation was for real or was only a drill.

Twenty-four hours later, the press pool was in the midst of a major military operation under a blistering desert sun. Jets swooped in to drop 500-pound (225 kg) bombs, artillery blasted away, tanks fired their cannons and 50 calibre machine guns.

Despite the live ammunition, it was no war, but rather a 35,000-man military exercise in the southern California Mojave desert called Gallant Eagle 86. For the war pool, it was simply a drill with no major news to be covered — not as exciting as it might have been.

But from Taylor's standpoint, the press exercise was highly

successful and made it more likely that the pool would be invited along for the first hours of an actual U.S. military attack.

"It was successful because secrecy was maintained and we brought the press in without hampering the military operation," Taylor said.

Cocooned about risk-taking the element of surprise was the chief reason the Pentagon gave for excluding the press during the first two days of its October 1983 intervention in Marxist Grenada. Barring the press drew howls of protest from the news media and prompted the Pentagon to create the war pool.

But on the first pool exercise, a supposedly hush-hush trip to report on U.S. army manoeuvres in Honduras in April 1985, word

of the pool's activation quickly leaked out in Washington, to the anger of the Pentagon. The pool's future appeared in jeopardy.

Luckily for the news media, secrecy was preserved in two subsequent exercises to watch manoeuvres in Kentucky and off the California coast. Last week's was the first test in which the pool was summoned during the day, when secrecy is harder to maintain, rather than in the middle of the night.

At the California desert site of the military manoeuvres, soldiers from the rank of general down to private appeared to have plenty of time for the pool, which was treated something like royalty, briefed extensively, fed well, and provided with tents, cots, pillows and sleeping bags.

Months after Challenger tragedy, many questions remain unanswered

By Howard Benedict
The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida — The shock waves set off six months ago by the fiery explosion of the shuttle Challenger are still reverberating through the nation's space programme.

Stung by a presidential commission report critical of its handling of the shuttle programme, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has undergone a management shake-up. NASA's Washington headquarters is asserting more control over its operations centres in Alabama, Texas and Florida.

James Fletcher, who headed NASA in the 1970s, has returned as the agency's administrator. The directors of Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral and the Marshall Space Flight Centre in Alabama have taken early retirement.

In addition, there are new directors of the shuttle programme and of the Johnson Space Centre in Houston. NASA also appointed a new safety director.

Still pending is a decision whether to build a replacement for Challenger and restore a four-orbiter fleet. President Ronald Reagan, who is expected to make a recommendation soon, says he favours a replacement shuttle, but the sticking point is the \$2.5-billion price tag.

Fletcher estimated in May that the shuttle would be flying again by July 1987. But he recently revised that to early 1988, saying more time is needed to redesign

and test the booster rocket that caused the accident.

The long delay worries Bob Sieck, the director of shuttle operations at the Kennedy Space Centre.

"The challenge is keeping the work force productive," he said. "But with the pure passage of time, some people are just quite frankly going to get tired of waiting and drift away."

Officials are especially concerned about keeping the core of skilled workers.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, more than 1,000 workers have been laid off at the space centre, and more layoffs or lengthy furloughs are expected to be announced soon. That leaves about 15,000 workers at the Kennedy Centre, 10,000 involved with the shuttle programme.

Most are being kept busy making long-overdue modifications to the three remaining shuttles, but that work will conclude before the end of the year.

"It's the uncertainty that is upsetting," said one worker, who asked not to be named.

"This is a recovery period," Sieck said. "We're going to clean up our act (improve) so that during the next launching we grade a perfect 10 on everything."

He believes the programme will bounce back, just as the Apollo programme did after the 1967 launch pad fire that killed the three members of the Apollo 1 crew.

Two of the most reliable unmanned rockets, the air force's

Titan 34D and NASA's Delta, have failed since the Challenger accident and are grounded, further complicating the work force picture.

The three failures have left the U.S. space programme unable to launch heavy satellites into orbit. The Delta is expected to be flying again by the end of the year and the Titan 34D by early next year.

Until that frigid morning last Jan. 28, NASA had basked in the nation's admiration for its 24 successful shuttle missions in five years. The shuttle had become a symbol of the power of U.S. technology.

The Challenger, carrying a crew of five men and two women, blew up 73 seconds after liftoff, killing all aboard. A NASA report quoted Dr. Joseph Kerwin as saying there were indications the astronauts could have had 6 to 15 seconds of "useful consciousness" after the explosion.

The family of pilot Michael J. Smith has filed a \$15-million claim against NASA, charging negligence. Other families are expected to do the same.

Millions of school children were especially affected by the disaster. They had been waiting for weeks for the flight so they could participate in a "classroom in space" conducted by Christa McAuliffe, a 37-year-old high school social studies teacher, selected as NASA's first ordinary citizen-in-space.

Six days after the accident, President Ronald Reagan appointed a 13-member investigation commission headed



by former Secretary of State William P. Rogers.

During a series of public hearings, the commission learned that troubles with the booster rocket joints dated back eight years.

It also uncovered flaws in NASA's management of the shuttle programme and in communications among various working levels.

On June 9, the commission presented its report, concluding that "If the programme had functioned properly, the Challenger accident might have been avoided."

A major reason for the failure to heed danger warnings, the commission said, was pressure to

meet an over-ambitious launch schedule of 24 flights a year by 1990. Fifteen had been scheduled this year.

It recommended that the agency, instead of relying exclusively on the shuttle, use more unmanned rockets to launch payloads.

In addition, it recommended that some kind of a crew-escape mechanism be considered, at least when the shuttle is gliding toward a landing. The commission conceded that no escape system could have saved the Challenger crew while the powerful boosters were firing.

Engineers are assessing two major designs that are intended to prevent the joint from bulging

open as hot gases expand within the rocket. A design decision is expected in October.

Another decision facing NASA is the mix of shuttle and unmanned rocket flights in the future.

The space agency had relied entirely on the shuttle and was phasing out throwaway boosters. Officials now admit that was a wrong decision, and more of these rockets will be built to carry many payloads, such as communications satellites, which had been assigned to the shuttle.

The air force already has ordered 10 powerful new rockets and wants 13 more to launch military satellites starting in 1988 or 1989.

Randa Habib's

Noisy nights

If you happen to live next to a hotel, a club or a discotheque — then you have all my sympathy.

In summer, with most parties at hotels and clubs being organised outdoors, people living in the neighbourhood cannot go to bed when they like. It depends on the wedding party organised in the next-door hotel. If, as is often the case, the party drags on until 2 a.m., then you just have to wait for the newly-weds to retire and their guests to go home before you can start putting yourself to sleep.

It is true that the law is very clear about disturbances and noise after 11 p.m. But it seems that the hotels do not care.

At the Seventh Circle, the music coming out of the garden of a certain club in that area keeps handicapped children, whose institution is nearby, awake most of the night. When one of the neighbours complained to the authorities that the loud music at night is a nuisance for the children, the answer he got was: "Oh, but they are handicapped." If this is true then the problem is more serious.

People are entitled to rest in their homes, especially sick people. As if it is not enough that one has to bear all sorts of noises during daytime, including of course the horns of gas delivery trucks, one is deprived of peace and quiet at night.

Those who like to enjoy late wedding parties or lively Arabic dancing and singing shows can certainly do so indoors. When most of the hotels are overcrowded why not terminate garden parties at 11 p.m. and move into ballrooms for late night shows.

California's unlucky 13

California once welcomed Proposition 13 — a law which cut property taxes and state spending. But now, says Philip Stephens, Californians are becoming a little uneasy with the legacy of this once-popular innovation.

LOS ANGELES — If the current vogue for tax-cutting in industrialised nations started anywhere, it was in California in 1978. The state's Proposition 13, with its deep cuts in property taxes and a permanent limit on future increases, was the trigger for a wave of popular tax revolts across the U.S.

The mood it encapsulated took Ronald Reagan to the White House two years later, and was a key factor in creating the political climate which allowed him to introduce deep reductions in federal taxes.

Now, eight years on, there are signs that California is becoming uneasy with the legacy of "Prop 13" and the string of other measures to curb taxes and spending which at the time won overwhelming public support in a series of referendum votes.

Decaying inner cities, peopled by a growing army of homeless, a widespread perception that the public schools system has fallen into crisis, lack of maintenance for the once-superb roads network, shabby parks and closed libraries have cooled the tax-cutting fervour.

Businessmen and officials in President Reagan's home state are beginning to question how much longer its deteriorating physical and social infrastructure can survive the immense pressures generated by a combination of tight spending limits, federal aid cutbacks and a rapidly-expanding population of often-poor immigrants.

The pendulum has not swung fully back by any means. Political leaders in this, the most-abrasively capitalist region of the world, still regard public discussion of significant tax increases as taboo — particularly ahead of this November's state elections. The Proposition 13 provision limiting property taxes to 1 per cent of assessed values is written in stone.

The coalition of right-wing political activists, businessmen and middle-class taxpayers which sparked the original revolt, however, now looks less cohesive.

Public concern over the school system, unrepaid roads, and rising crime has raised the possibility at least that, once the elections are over, politicians will consider increases in those taxes which escaped the rigid limits of Proposition 13.

The scale of the decline in public services is startling. California's economy, long among the richest and most dynamic in the U.S., has since the 1982 recession continued to flourish relative to the rest of the country. In contrast, the standards of many of its public services have plummeted from near the top of the national league to below the average.

The state now spends less than the national average on education and, according to Mr. John Vasconcellos, a Democratic leader in the Sacramento state assembly, class sizes are the largest of any mainland state. Despite its huge and brilliantly-engineered highway system, California's spending on roads has also fallen to near the bottom of the national league.

"The cost (of Proposition 13) is a state unable to sustain itself," says Mr. Vasconcellos, who is chairman of the assembly's powerful Ways and Means Committee. "It saddens, worries and embarrasses me."

The impact is particularly vivid in Los Angeles, a sprawling conurbation with a population of 8 million or so, swollen every week by thousands of new immigrants, many of them poor and jobless "illegals" from Mexico.

The number of people living on the streets, put at 35,000 in 1984, is the largest of any city in the U.S. About half of Los Angeles' 6,000 miles of road are overdue for repair. Subsidised medical care for

the poor has been cut back dramatically.

Mr. Keith Comrie, the city's chief administrative officer, is pessimistic about the prospects for improvements. "When you can't adjust your taxes to any extent you just ride with the economy. It has cut out all ability to do anything like long-range planning," he says. Mr. Comrie is bitter about the city's inability to aid its poorest citizens: "A civilised society should also be responsible for the people who are not competitive. We are only as good as how we treat our weakest link."

Overall, there has certainly been no supple miracle here, nor any spontaneous resurgence of the private sector to provide the services previously administered by state and city governments. Lower taxes have simply meant poorer public provision.

Ironically, Proposition 13 has also weakened local democracy by increasing the dependence of local authorities on the state government, which in the immediate aftermath of the measure used its huge accumulated financial surplus to bail out city and county authorities. That surplus lasted only three years and the state's budget has been effectively frozen in real terms since 1981, despite an estimated increase of close to 20 per cent in California's population, including illegal immigrants.

It will face a further crunch next year when spending will reach a ceiling imposed by votes in 1979, with the passage of what is known as Proposition 4. This prohibits all increases in spending over and above those needed to keep up with inflation and population growth. The problem is that the U.S. consumer price index, which was fixed as the guideline for inflation, has risen much more slowly than prices for the state's purchases, so the theoretical allowance for population growth has vanished.

"The index (used in Proposition 4) would never allow the state to maintain the same level of services over time," Mr. John Vickerman, a senior legislative analyst for the state assembly, comments. In other words, budgeting in California has now become a zero-sum game. Any improvement in one service must be paid for by cuts in another.

Mr. George Deukmejian, the Republican state governor, insists that California will have to abide by the limit, focusing on selecting the right priorities within the budget rather than increasing overall spending.

But as business faces the prospect of further cutbacks in highway and other capital allocations, some of its leaders are becoming restless. The California Taxpayers' Association, which lobbies on behalf of industry and commerce, was a strong supporter of Proposition 4. Now Mr. Richard Simpson, its executive vice-president, voices concern over the outlook for public investment and talks of the need for "pragmatism."

None of this persuades Mr. Howard Jarvis, the driving force behind Proposition 13 and still at 83 a fierce campaigner for even less government. Waste in local government, he insists, "is thrown up like confetti. It is endemic," and Proposition 13 "is as near to perfection as any law in the U.S."

For many others, however, the tax-cutting experiment has silted rather than nurtured the pioneering spirit which set California apart from the rest of the U.S.

California, says Mr. Vasconcellos, "is a state with the richest array of human, economic, and scientific resources in the world," but one which is threatened by policies that are "mean-spirited and counter-productive" — Financial Times feature.

Why some women prefer to live alone in spite of social pressures

The following article by Dorothea Kenler is reprinted from The German Tribune

FOUR single women have told me why they prefer to live alone. Their reasons are similar.

The conventional view is that women should delight in motherhood and the joys of family life. Single women are regarded with some suspicion.

The conventional view is that there must be something wrong with young people of both sexes who remain single. If not that, then they are worried at getting involved in lasting relationships.

Single people are notorious as loners and workaholics with a hole-in-the-corner sex-life.

But being single is for many people a pleasant state — although of course there are no statistics.

Women now in their 30s and 40s are the first generation to have opened up this new, alternative way of life.

Marlene is a 32-year-old lawyer. She is single, but not alone. At weekends, she is visited by a male friend, something which is recommended by women's magazines.

They share a bed but not their homes or daily lives. The relationship has to work.

Unlike the marriage ceremony injunction "for better or for worse," couples stay together so long as things go with a swing, but when the going gets rough they part.

"I cannot imagine where I would get the energy from to deal with domestic problems after a hard day in the office," Marlene said.

But wouldn't it be nice to have someone at home and to have someone there to have breakfast with in the morning?

Marlene said this was of no importance to her, adding: "Of course that would be nice sometimes. But Guter is just as knocked out as I am after work, so that we would soon get on each other's nerves."

She continued: "It suits me that I do not have to take a partner into consideration, at least not every day. I don't have to think: he's now waiting for me, when I must urgently go through a couple of files."

"When I invite him to meal at my place with candles on the table, good food and music, that is quite different from dashing back for a bite in the evening and just chatting about pointless nothing."

Psychologists maintain that people put greater store on being happy, men and women are not so willing to struggle through the difficult times together. There is a reluctance to meet the demands that a partner inevitably makes.

Does this add up to worry about lasting relationships and egotism? This emotional agoraphobia cannot be dismissed as easily as that, for living together means working to make the relationship work. This is mainly the woman's burden.

This begins with small routine things and is especially critical when "she" has to be all ears for his "his" problems, although she has had a hard day herself. She has to suppress her own frustrations, which until not so long ago was a marital duty of a married woman.

But women today are no longer prepared to invest all their energies in private relationships rather than in getting on in their careers. They have other priorities. Love is important to them, but work is just as

important.

If men pay lip service to this state of affairs but are not prepared to accept it in reality then eventually trouble arises. Sigrid's refusal to accept the traditional woman's role sounds more convincing, more radical and angrier than Marlene's attitude.

For the past three years she had lived in a communal flat and is no longer single. She is expecting a child. She is on good terms with the man who has fathered the child, but she does not want to marry him nor live with him.

"I'd be very unhappy at having to give up my job and my financial independence. I'm lucky because as an illustrator I do not have to work regular hours and I can depend on my flatmates to look after the child."

"But just imagine if I were married. If I did not give up my job I would be marked as a selfish person with two jobs."

She continued: "As a member of the staff I would be the first to go if economic measures were introduced, because I am 'looked after'. But as politicians say marriage is not a welfare institution. Nevertheless later I would be dependent for my pension on my husband, because I was not full-time employed long enough and my own pension would be too small."

"If the marriage breaks up then I run out to have been really conned."

Sigrid pointed out that "time and time again you can see how difficult it is for a woman to take up her career again after she has been away from it for some time. Many women have to be satisfied with poorly-paid jobs just to be able to earn something. And the pay the ex-husband earns is

usually not enough to keep two households going."

She added: "Our society is anti-women and anti-mothers as well. The state allowance paid for bringing up a child is just cosmetic. We women must open male politicians' eyes to the power we have."

Sometimes I think there would be some sense in promoting a strike against child-bearing. Mind you I'm delighted about my child."

The attitudes Marlene and Sigrid take show that a woman's thoughts about establishing a family are spoiled by existing pressures on women to take up the traditional role as well as social disadvantages. These disadvantages are as great for career women, particularly those with children, as they are for ordinary housewives.

These women prefer to live within their own four walls rather than in the cosy security of the family group.

Frequently, however, they get a taste for this alternative way of life and do not want to change.

How is it that a woman finds herself in the single condition? After her education Sigrid lived most of the time in communal accommodation. Her relations with men did not go any further than sharing a roof.

Marlene has been married but her marriage did not allow her increasing independence to flower.

Kenner's decision to live alone was the result of considerable experience. She said: "When I was in my mid-twenties, like most of my friends who had a permanent relationship, I got involved with a married man. When the others went off in couples together on holiday or at the weekends, I

stayed at home alone twiddling my thumbs.

"I learned about being alone out of necessity. For example, I got used to going to a pub alone, because the house got on my nerves so much."

She continued: "I did not find this too much of a strain, in fact, for I often met people with whom I could chat. I learned how to put off those who tries to make a pass at me, and that did not happen as often as I feared it would."

"There was a time when I envied women who got self-confidence from being with someone else or from family ties. But when I see the difficulties divorced women have to deal with they married young, then I'm glad that I have learned how to live alone without feeling lonely."

Her current friend lives in another city. They meet at the weekend, but they have no intention of living together.

"She said: 'I don't think I could do that any longer. Perhaps there is a period when you can get to know how to live together, like learning how to speak. If it doesn't happen at a definite period in your life, you never learn it.'

"Anyway I have my job and my own circle of friends. I don't feel that I have missed anything."

For the past two years Adele has lived alone, since she parted from her friend. Asked if she had a boyfriend she said: "When I hear the word boyfriend I think of duties and tennis, but not love."

She finds companionship and security in her group of friends, who are, like Adele, all involved in their free time in Amnesty International.

Her job as a teacher, Amnesty, concerts, parties, films and books fill out her life, as well as conversations with male friends.

She has no time to be lonely.

Will her life always be like this? Does she want to grow old in this life-style?

Why not, she says. But she does not rule out entirely that eventually she might get involved with someone, get married or live together.

"But there's time for that," she said. "One day I might find the man or the woman with whom I know I could live together to do and die for."

This is a new version of the old story, when the right person comes along, with the difference that "the right person" could be a woman. But Adele is not prepared to tear herself apart as a victim on the altar of love.

She said: "I have tried for quite a long time to get on in my job. When I began to feel that I had got on top of my job, then my friend said how nice it would be for us to have a child."

"I also thought that but it was a little too early for me. I was not confident enough that I could manage my job and a child."

She continued: "For eighteen months we battled with one another about our relationship, but it fell apart because we both did not want the same things."

Adele is in no hurry to fall in love again. Is she not worried that she will lose her attractiveness as she gets older? This is always a worry for women who live alone.

She said: "No, not really. I think I shall be more, not less, attractive."

Her confidence is based less on a skin that is well cared for with cosmetics than from a well-cared for inner life.

Faced with such calm last minute panic doesn't have much of a chance.

Castro approaches 60, outlasts peers

By George Gedda
The Associated Press

HAVANA — On the spur of the moment one evening, Fidel Castro decided he wanted a big, enthusiastic send-off the following morning for his distinguished visitor, Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India.

Rounding up half-a-million people on short notice is no small task. But it took only a snap of Castro's fingers.

By dawn, Havana was abuzz with activity in preparation for Gandhi's mid-morning departure. Mass organisations were alerted and buses normally used to take commuters to their jobs were mobilised. Half a million cheering Cubans saw the Indian leader off that day in 1985.

Fidel Castro, 27 years after seizing power and nearing age 60, remains very much in control, the undisputed leader of Cuba.

The young guerrilla who came down from the Sierra Maestra mountains to overthrow U.S.-backed Dictator Fulgencio Batista; has outlasted almost every world leader in power at the time he took control of Cuba.

His beard is flecked with gray, but Castro still appears youthful and vigorous, somewhat slimmer than a few years ago.

He still inspires awe and respect among his countrymen and others, who have been touched by his rule.

On the international stage, Castro is as defiant as he was a generation ago when, in an act of

political daring, he led devoutly anti-Communist country 90 miles from the United States into the Soviet bloc — and got away with it.

For all the veneration he inspires, there is surprising degree of informality in the way Cubans relate to Castro. Personal adulation, he insists, holds little appeal for him.

"You will not see a statue of me anywhere, nor a school with my name, nor a street, nor a little town, nor any type of personality cult, because we have not taught our people to believe but to think," he has said.

Six months before his forces entered Havana on New Year's day 1959, ousting Batista, Castro already had begun plotting against his big neighbour to the north, telling a confidant in a private memo:

"When this war is over, a much wider and bigger war will begin for me, the war that I am going to wage against them (the United States). I realise that that is going to be my true destiny."

He has kept his word. Aside from the Soviet Union, no country has given the United States more problems over an extended period than has Cuba. Attempts by successive U.S. presidents to get tough with Castro generally have failed and had the effect of consolidating his power.

Politically, Castro has profited from having a "foreign devil" nearby.

Cuba has always been too small a stage for Castro. In the 1960s, he

sponsored efforts to export his revolution to Latin America through guerrilla warfare. In the 1970s, he turned his attention to Africa, deploying tens of thousands of his forces in ideologically like-minded countries on the continent.

Now he exhorts Latin American nations to repudiate their \$360-billion debt burden — most of it owed to U.S. creditors.

Few heads of government anywhere have ever left a stamp as indelible as the Castro has left — and continues to leave — on Cuba.

He nationalised businesses, shut down the independent media and forced a million of his countrymen into exile.

He educated the illiterate, built schools where none existed before, provided medical care to a degree rarely seen in the Third World, became a hero to previously neglected peasants and exported doctors, teachers and expeditionary forces to distant lands.

He defeated a U.S.-sponsored invasion, survived an American economic embargo and a number of CIA-plotted assassination attempts, gleaned billions of dollars in aid from Moscow and created one of Latin America's most stable and prosperous states.

Very little about Cuba escapes Castro's attention. When a fire broke out at the Havana Liberty hotel in January, he rushed to the scene, watching the firemen battle the blaze. He got wet.

Castro says he was born on Aug.

13, 1926. (His brother Raoul says Castro was born on that date a year later.)

He spent his first dozen years on a farm in rural Oriente province. Educated by Jesuits, he married Mirra Diaz Balart as a young man and divorced her before the revolution. His son, Fidelito, is head of Cuba's Atomic Energy Commission.

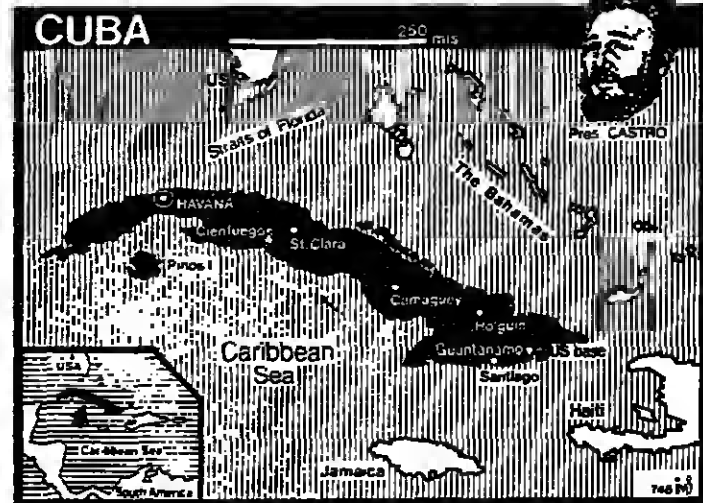
Castro's personal friends and female companions nowadays are regarded by his countrymen as Castro's private concern and no one else's.

Last year, Castro, who has left the Cuban Catholic church emasculated, talked candidly about his religious views during extensive interviews with a leftist Brazilian churchman, Frei Betto.

"Ever since I had the use of reason, the name of Jesus Christ was one of the most familiar in my house and in school during my infancy and adolescence," he told Betto. "I never saw a contradiction between the ideas that sustain me and the ideas of that symbol, that extraordinary figure."

Only lately have questions arisen about his health. Castro insists he is fit but some Western experts are not sure, noting that a lifetime of erratic sleeping and eating habits may be taking their toll. Some feel that Castro's decision last August to stop smoking cigars was a doctor's order.

Castro's legendary oratorical skills remain undiminished. In April, on the occasion of the 25th



anniversary of the abortive, U.S.-backed Bay of Pigs invasion, he spoke extemporaneously for three hours, holding his audience in a way that most other heads of government could only envy.

How successful is the revolution that Castro still oversees?

Kristiansen slashes Budd's 5,000 metre world record

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (Agencies) — Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway cut more than 10 seconds off Zola Budd's world 5,000-metre record Tuesday, giving her the fastest times ever in all three women's long-distance events.

Kristiansen, running alone most of the race, was timed in 14 minutes, 37.33 seconds in chilly and rainy conditions at Stockholm's Olympic Stadium.

"But the weather was not a factor," she said afterward. "And I wasn't really tired towards the end."

It was the 66th world record set at the Olympic Stadium, which was built for the 1912 Summer Games. Bislett Stadium in Oslo, with 46 world records, is the only other site that comes close in that category.

Budd, a South African-born runner now competing for Britain, set the previous world 5,000 record of 14:48.07 last August 26 at Crystal Palace in London, Kristiansen, who held the record at the time, was runnerup in the race.

The 30-year-old Norwegian also has the fastest women's marathon time ever — there are no official world records — and owns the world 10,000-metre standard.

Kristiansen had predicted a time between 14:35 and 14:40 prior to the race.

Wells stops Canadians

Meanwhile, on the same night in Gateshead, England, former Olympic champion Allan Wells

stormed to a remarkable sprint double to pencil himself in for a shot at the European Championships in three weeks time.

But Budd, one of the favourites to land the 3,000 metres title in Stuttgart, slumped to her third successive defeat by finishing fourth in the 2,000 metres at the Britain V Commonwealth Athletics match.

The 20-year-old South African-born Budd opened up a

gap of 15 metres but double Commonwealth silver medallist Debbie Bowker of Canada overhauled her on the last lap to win in five minutes 39.96 seconds.

Budd trailed in fourth on a night when she also lost her 5,000 metres world best time to Kristiansen. If Budd's defeat raised serious doubts about her confidence, then victory ended two years of heartache for Wells.

The muscle-bound Briton, who failed to make Scotland's Commonwealth Games team, first stunned Canada's Commonwealth champion Ben Johnson over 100 metres, clocking 10.40 seconds in cold conditions. Johnson finished fourth complaining he found it hard to get motivated.

'Mediocre' McEnroe wins

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, Vermont (R) — John McEnroe returned to the tennis forum Tuesday, but his performance, according to the American world's no. 7, was less than satisfactory.

McEnroe won his first Grand Prix match after a seven-month layoff, beating Yugoslavia's Marco Ostojic 7-5, 6-3 in a first-round match at the \$315,000 meo's Grand Prix tennis tournament here.

Ostojic was a last minute replacement for unseeded American Brian Teacher, who withdrew due to a back injury.

Ostojic was a lucky loser from the qualifying.

"It'll take some time to get back," the world's former top player said after the match. I

thought I was tentative on my groundstrokes and everything felt out of sync. The only thing that was alright was my serve," he said.

McEnroe described the match as "mediocre."

"It amazes me sometimes how mediocre I can play," he said.

McEnroe was more amazed, however, at his previous achievements. He was recently undertaken an intense training routine, developing his upper body and watching his diet.

McEnroe was notorious in the past for ignoring any kind of serious athletic preparation.

"I don't know how I accomplished what I did in the past, without doing what I'm doing now," he said, referring to the workouts.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Morocco's First Division is reorganised

RABAT (R) — The Moroccan First Division soccer championship will be split into two groups next season to reduce the number of clubs from 24 to an elite of 16, the Royal Moroccan Football Federation said Wednesday. In the 1986-87 season due to kick off on September 21, the existing 24 First Division clubs will play in two groups of 12 teams, each which have been drawn by lots. After playing 20 games, the top three of each of the two groups will play a 10-game championship, while the bottom four in each group will be relegated to the Second Division.

Rick Hansen calls for Olympic wheelchair event

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Canadian paraplegic athlete Rick Hansen, who is touring the world in a wheelchair, said Tuesday he would like to see a wheelchair event included in the Olympic Games. "I personally would like to see the day when there would be an event in the Olympics... not a special event, not an exhibition event, but as a sport... for instance a wheelchair race of 1,500 metres on a track," he told a news conference during a visit to U.N. headquarters.

Inverness clock marks era

TOLEDO, Ohio (R) — There is a splendid clock proudly displayed in the Inverness clubhouse which, in addition to keeping time, marks the beginning of a new era in golf.

Before 1920, golf professionals were looked down upon, considered in rank with servants and other hired help. Most clubs in the United States and in Britain would not allow pros access to their dining or locker rooms.

Then Toledo's Inverness Club hosted the 1920 United States Open and its members proved to be most congenial hosts.

They welcomed all Open contestants — 265 in all, both amateur and professional — into their plush clubhouse, giving them

free use of the elegant dining rooms and plush lockerroom.

The professionals — including such greats as Walter Hagen, Harry Vardon, Willie MacFarlane, Jim Barnes, Jack Hutchinson and Englishman Ted Ray, who won the Open — were so impressed with the way they were treated they took up a collection and presented the club with an impressive wood and brass clock standing taller than 2.45 metres.

Inscribed on a brass plate on the front of the clock was:

"This cathedral clock was presented to the Inverness Club by the professional golfers present at the Open championship of 1920 as a testimonial of their deep appreciation of the many courtesies extended them and the spirit of genuine democracy, which prompted such hospitality."

The inscription concludes with the verse:

"God measures men by what they are, not what they in wealth possess. That vibrant message chimes afar, the voice of Inverness."

Piquet threatens Mansell's lead

By Ian Keresey
Reuters

BUDAPEST — Nelson Piquet's appetite for success, whetted by his victory in West Germany two weeks ago, could pose a major threat to his own team-mate, world championship leader Nigel Mansell, in Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix, the first Formula One race to be held in eastern Europe.

Brazilian Piquet and Briton Mansell have now taken their Williams cars to the forefront of the sport. The pair have recorded five wins for the British team in their last six outings, a remarkable achievement matched only by rivals McLaren in recent seasons.

As individuals, Mansell boasts the superior strike rate. He has four triumphs against Piquet's two this year and lines up on Budapest's Hungarian starting grid with a seemingly healthy 13 point advantage over him.

But Piquet senses that a third world title is not beyond the bounds of possibility even though only six rounds of this year's series are still undecided. He has faced and achieved such a target before.

Piquet, immensely gifted, will take the first competitive visit to a communist country by the glamorous Formula One circus in his stride. He relishes a fresh challenge and he will not allow the absence of prior technical information on the 4.013-kilometre parkland circuit to worry him.

"I always enjoy new circuits and, in this case, a new country," he said. Piquet admitted there was ground to be made up on Mansell but added: "I am pleased with way things are going at this stage of the season."

The remark may sound ineffectual but Piquet said much the same thing late in 1983 and went on to prize the championship from Frenchman Alain Prost in the very last race.

While Mansell wrestled with handling problems at Hockenheim, reigning title holder Prost was one of several drivers struck by the current Formula One bogey — fuel economy. He dropped to sixth place after his McLaren ran out of petrol just short of the finish.

Mansell was rather fortunate to

take third position which increased his championship lead to seven points over second placed Prost.

Brazil's Ayrton Senna, tank virtually dry, came second behind Piquet in his Lotus and races in Hungary third overall, nine points adrift of Mansell.

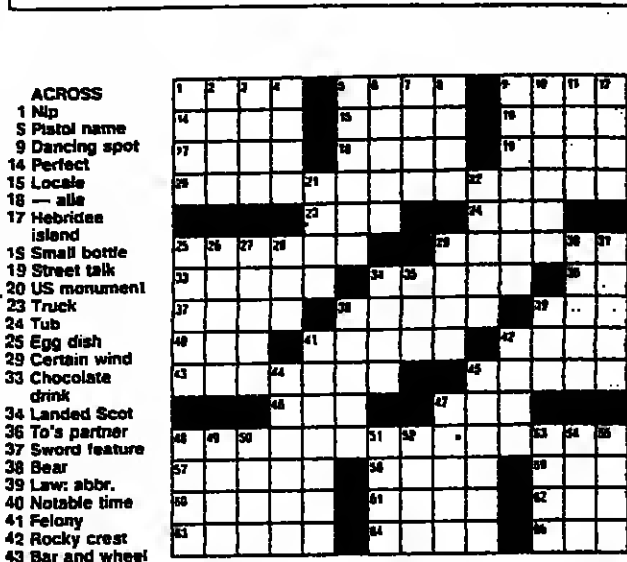
The Hungarians have lobbied long and hard for a place in the championship calendar and early signs indicate that the brand new track will gain approval from the safety-conscious drivers. They will have their first taste of it in a

special two hour shakedown session Thursday.

Hungary were willing to foot the multimillion dollar bill for three reasons: worldwide television exposure, increased tourism, and the prestige attached to holding a major sporting event.

A capacity but largely uninitiated 120,000 crowd is expected on Sunday. The spectators will give the Formula One teams an extra boost because attendances have been sparse elsewhere several times this season.

THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin



- ACROSS
1. Nip
 2. Pistol name
 3. Dancing spot
 4. Perfect
 5. Local
 6. Alle
 7. Hebrides island
 8. Small bottle
 9. Street talk
 10. US monument
 11. Truck
 12. Tub
 13. Egg dish
 14. Certain wind
 15. Chocolate drink
 16. Landed Scot
 17. To's partner
 18. Desert fare
 19. Bear
 20. Law, abbr.
 21. Notable time
 22. Feigning
 23. Rocky crest
 24. Bar and wheel mechanism
 25. Hummed
 26. Wrath
 27. Droop
 28. US monument
 29. Nautical word
 30. Opera favorite
 31. Sidle
 32. Electron tube
 33. Desert fare
 34. Spore
 35. Best and
 36. Ferber
 37. Song bird
 38. Court
- DOWN
1. Dilemma
 2. Cher
 3. King and I
 4. role
 5. Legal warning
 6. Heavily
 7. Shiny alloys
 8. Hunter
 9. Shill inact
 10. Lofly
 11. Break up
 12. Ways of entry
 13. Play the lead
 14. Small coin
 15. Drunken
 16. Tusk
 17. Eye part
 18. Tusk stuff
 19. Yellow
 20. pigment
 21. Dancer
 22. Shearer
 23. Ransom
 24. Fate
 25. Swamp
 26. Frequently
 27. Mount the
 28. soapbox
 29. Distinguished
 30. Cafe au —
 31. Branch
 32. Fish basket
 33. Theater sign
 34. Shiny alloys
 35. Jason's ship
 36. Tablecloth
 37. material
 38. Peasover meal
 39. Put on cargo
 40. Footnote abbr.
 41. Sign light
 42. Tack
 43. Isinglass
 44. Depend
 45. Fancy
 46. Culture
 47. medium
 48. Furnish

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FIRST RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------|------------|--------|
| 1. Naeif Mahmoud Maddad | B. El Reeh | Owner | | 56 |
| 2. Saddam Ghalib | M. Saddam | Owner | A. Jabir | 56 |
| 3. Badr Haran El Bakheet | Sahar Malik | Owner | Ibrahim | 54.5 |
| 4. Mashour Faisal | R. Falestin | Owner | Sulman | 54.5 |
| 5. Mohammad A. Sarrah | D. El Jandal | Owner | | 54.5 |
| 6. Mohammad A. El Hady | Mabrouk | Owner | A. Jagheel | 53 |
| 7. Farhan Fathi Oudh | Karroub | Owner | George | 53 |
| 8. Oudh Haidi | Amoun | Owner | Salah | 53 |
| 9. Murad Ahmad Shawky | Maymoon | Owner | | 53 |
| 10. Dary Basheer Shalei | El Nahidiah | Owner | | 51.5 |
| 11. Mshary El Bakheet | El Salfin | Owner | | 50 |
| 12. Rashid Mbarak El Ksar | Hisham | Owner | Kasim | 50 |
| 13. Mahmoud Masallam Fayadh | Nimr | Owner | Yousef | 50 |
| 14. Talib El Nahar | Seed | Owner | Dallallah | 50 |
| 15. Masallam Khatlan | Sakdavy | Owner | | 50 |

SECOND RACE 4.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------|----------|--------|
| 1. Naeif Eled A. Jnaib | Lamie | Owner | Sulman | 56 |
| 2. Mikdad Hassan Innab | Jada | Owner | | 56 |
| 3. Saleem Sulman | Khalshah | Owner | Mahmoud | 56 |
| 4. Naeif Salim El Kaisy | Rasha El Bakka | Owner | | 54.6 |
| 5. Naeif Salim El Kaisy | Jawwal | Owner | | 53 |
| 6. A. El Hady Fala | Sahban | Owner | | 53 |
| 7. Sameeh Oudh El Kaisy | El Sheeb | Owner | Mwalak | 53 |
| 8. Samy Mohammad El Bakheet | El Sheeb | Owner | A. Jabir | 53 |
| 9. A. El Sattar Matar | Wajdan Salf | Owner | Saad | 51.5 |
| 10. Farhan Fathi Oudh | Izz El Midan | Owner | George | 50 |
| 11. Shihadh Atwah Slimy | Harnan | Owner | Salem | 50 |
| 12. A. El Rahman Fala | Dabab | Owner | | 50 |
| 13. Ahmad Salim El Fanash | Saad Hashim | Owner | Yousef | 50 |
| 14. Mohammad Yousef | Salam | Owner | | 48.5 |
| 15. A. El Sattar Matar | Sahar Salf | Owner | | 48.5 |

THIRD RACE 5.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|--------|
| 1. Mashour Faisal A. Jnaib | N. El Salt | Owner | | 53 |
| 2. Ismael Saleem | Alwahab | Owner | | 53 |
| 3. Ahmad Mohammad | Alwahab | Owner | Dallallah | 51.5 |
| 4. Ghazy Farah A. Jabir | S. Ghazy | Owner | Sulman | 50 |
| 5. A. El Sattar Matar | S. Saad | Owner | Saad | 50 |
| 6. Ghalib Haddadin | El Zalem | Owner | Kasim | 50 |
| 7. Ahmad Said Inaile | El Muriab | Owner | A. Amarah | 50 |
| 8. Samy Haddadin | Tarik | Owner | George | 50 |
| 9. Saad El Din Fida | Ghassab | Owner | | 50 |
| 10. Misha El Falez | Nomas | Owner | Mousa | 50 |
| 11. Nimr El Hmoud | Um El Rass | Owner | Mahmoud | 48.5 |
| 12. Mohammad Mitak | Intisar Kais | Owner | A. Jabir | 48.5 |
| 13. Kandour & Fakhoury | Kamah | Owner | Paul | 48.5 |
| 14. Nabeel Ibrahim Shaheen | S. El Khair | Owner | | 48.5 |
| 15. Ghazy Farah A. Jabir | Asit | Owner | | 50 |

FOURTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------|-----------|--------|
| 1. H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable | Jallab | Ibrahim | Ibrahim | 60 |
| 2. H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable | Salwa | Ibrahim | A. Amarah | 48.5 |
| 3. Badr Haran El Bakheet | H. El Midan | Owner | Rashed | 56 |
| 4. Faisal Awwad El Falez | Kas El Molouk | Owner | | 55.5 |
| 5. Faisal Awwad El Falez | El Hancot | Owner | | 53.5 |
| 6. Misha El Falez | Battat | Owner | Mousa | 53 |
| 7. Salf El Din El Jji | El Sanny | Owner | Yousef | 53 |
| 8. Ghazy Farah A. Jabir | El Dahook | Owner | Mwalak | 51.5 |
| 9. Ghazy Farah A. Jabir | Arbaed | Owner | Sulman | 50 |
| 10. Ghalib Haddadin | Zalnah | Owner | George | 50.5 |
| 11. Samy Haddadin | Nawiem | Owner | Kasim | 48.5 |

FIFTH RACE 6.00 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------|----------|--------|
| 1. Hany Kamal Beharat | El Shaily | Owner | | 60 |
| 2. Nimr El Hmoud | Sahir | Owner | Ibrahim | 57 |
| 3. Nimr El Hmoud | El Talek | Owner | Mahmoud | 55 |
| 4. Nimr El Hmoud | Dinar | Owner | | 50 |
| 5. Khalil Haddadin | Dinar | Owner | Mostafa | 56 |
| 6. Hadeel Hany El Hadeel | Dana | Owner | A. Jabir | 53.5 |
| 7. Hadeel Hany El Hadeel | Malak | Owner | Yousef | 51.5 |
| 8. Misha El Falez | A. El Taleb | Owner | Mousa | 53 |
| 9. Kandour & Fakhoury | Koban | Owner | Paul | 53 |
| 10. Samy Haddadin | Waheed | Owner | George | 50 |
| 11. Ghalib Haddadin | H. El Nasir | Owner | Kasim | 50 |
| 12. Ghazy Farah A. Jabir | B. El Yacodih | Owner | | 50 |
| 13. Faisal Awwad El Falez | Khalil | Owner | Rashed | 48.5 |

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Canadian Embassy in Amman announces that it requires a villa for rent/buy, suitable for Ambassador's residence in the following areas: Abdoun/Um Uthman/Shmeisani/ Jabal Amman under the following specifications:

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- 2- Building square metre approximate 320 - 475 m²

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Mr. Barry Rice

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MEDICINE

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| One sterling | 1.4815/25 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.3835/40 | Canadian dollars |
| | 2.0820/30 | West German marks |
| | 2.3465/75 | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.6785/95 | Swiss francs |
| | 43.05/10 | Belgian francs |
| | 6.7525/75 | French francs |
| | 1433/1435 | Italian lire |
| | 154.55/65 | Japanese yen |
| | 6.9580/9630 | Swedish crowns |
| | 7.3740/90 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 7.8000/50 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 360.90/361.30 | U.S. dollars |

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were sharply lower on Wednesday and at one time the F.T. 30 index showed its highest ever single day fall, 32.0 points down at 1,233.8.

Early profit-taking after Tuesday's gains unsettled equity prices at the opening. Shares then turned lower in reaction to three or four special situations Wednesday morning and continued downwards throughout the rest of the session, dealers said.

A bearish statement following GKN's weaker than expected interim results depressed the market as did news of a Boots share placing to fund its rumoured U.S. acquisition and the Monopolies Commission's ruling against the GEC bid for Plessey.

GKN's announcement of pretax profits of £74.5 million in the six months to the end of June came well below the expected £80 million. Dealers said the shares divided following the company's statement that it saw difficulty in improving results for the year as a whole. GKN finished 56p lower at 290, after 285, dragging Hawker Siddeley 25p lower to 491, Lucas 17p down to 513 and Vickers 12p off to 401 in sympathy.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An excellent day and evening to get into the specifics of whatever course of action you want to perfect. You will have considerable energy today.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Tackle your work in any sphere of your endeavor enthusiastically and get much accomplished.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) See your barber or beautician and enhance your appearance. Assist your mate and be happy together.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Make the improvements at home that are needed. The evening is fine for entertaining interesting individuals.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Handle desk work and then get busy at shopping. Take time to see and be with good friends.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Enjoy a greater abundance. Get advice from financiers and accountants and follow it. Be very efficient.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan a course of action that can bring you more personal happiness. Show appreciation for your friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plan that course of action that will gain you your finest objectives. See what you can do to please close ties.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Choose your friends carefully today and become a happier person. Get into amusements together.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be more efficient and business affairs become more successful. Handle credit and public affairs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can make wise changes in your modus operandi now and this can bring quick advancement.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Handle practical affairs and make them work properly. Please your mate by carrying through with plans.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Conversations with associates can solve the problems that exist with relative ease. Improve social alliances.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Early in the day expect to find some sudden problems especially due to poor judgement from a consultant.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't be hasty in making those changes where your work is concerned or you may hit big troubles.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You may have to revise some plan for amusements and be sure you do not get into anything too expensive.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) The condition at home could be quite annoying. Use more gentility with your mate and improve romance.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Use more care in communicating with others so that your meaning will not be misinterpreted.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Monetary and other practical matters are not what they seem, so study them carefully to avoid mistakes.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Anything of a personal nature may appear to have all kinds of strange ramifications, so use objectivity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plan time to rid yourself of unpleasantness and be tactful, diplomatic. Concentrate on future gains.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't ask close ties to assist you in personal aims. Rely more on yourself and get good results.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be careful in handling civic affairs since otherwise you can lose prestige.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Some out-of-town situation that has many problems in it can be turned to your advantage now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study your responsibilities and plan your time and activities so that you can discharge them wisely.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Postpone talks with a partner until a better time and handle your own career wisely.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have every ability to understand why plans have not worked out as desired and how best to improve them constructively. One who will work very hard to attain a position of prominence. The latter years will be easy and peaceful for your progeny.

Bahrain stock exchange to open within 3 months

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's proposed stock exchange will open within three months, Commerce and Agriculture Minister Habib Kassem said in an interview published Wednesday.

He told the Bahrain newspaper Akbar Al Khaleej the exchange would be regulated by a governing committee drawn from both the public and private sectors.

The Bahraini cabinet decided on Sunday to set up a formal stock exchange, but Mr. Kassem's interview provided the first official word on timing. At present, shares in local companies are traded through a loosely organized telephone market.

Mr. Kassem, who will chair the governing committee, said the new market would aim to encourage savings and investment while supervising financial transactions.

He said the exchange would develop gradually, aiming to become a regional centre before expanding into a more international role.

Part of all of the shares of successful government-owned companies could be put out to public subscription for purchase by Bahraini nationals, he said, and citizens of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states would be all company.

Mr. Kassem said the new stock exchange would also deal in commodities, futures, foreign currencies and precious metals and would be run by a general manager with a substantial legal and technical back-up team.

Within the three-month deadline, a stock exchange building will be chosen and necessary legislation drawn up, he said.

He added that committees had been set up to investigate possible ownership of Bahraini real estate by nationals of other GCC countries.

Coca-Cola terminates bid to take over Dr. Pepper

ATLANTA (R) — Coca-Cola, the soft drink giant, said Tuesday it ended an agreement to buy Dr. Pepper Co. from Forstmann Little for \$470 million.

Coke said it did so at the request of Forstmann Little's management, but the move had been expected after a federal judge last week blocked the proposed acquisition, calling it a "stark, unvarnished" attempt to eliminate competition that "totally lacks any apparent redeeming feature."

At the time, Coca-Cola attorneys indicated the transaction would "likely be abandoned" in face of the opposition.

During the trial, the court was shown internal Coca-Cola documents, stamped "highly confidential," which said the company's "primary objective

should be to attempt to stop" PepsiCo's proposed acquisition of Seven-Up, then owned by Philip Morris Co., for \$380 million.

The aim behind the bid for Dr. Pepper, which was made on Feb. 21, the same day the confidential memo was circulated to top management, was to stir up public and government opposition to such overall consolidation in the industry.

Pepsi's acquisition of Seven-Up and Coke's acquisition of Dr. Pepper would have given the two 80 per cent of the market.

In June, PepsiCo's efforts to acquire Seven-Up's domestic business collapsed in face of opposition from the Federal Trade Commission. But last month, it agreed to acquire Seven-Up's international operations for \$246 million.

China officially opens first stock market since 1949

PEKING (R) — China's first stock market since 1949 has opened for business and Western bankers said Wednesday it marked a major step forward in the country's economic reforms.

The exchange opened Tuesday in Shanghai, China's second-largest industrial city after Shenzhen, and one of five chosen to experiment with new economic models.

The People's Daily said the market was bustling with activity, although trading initially was restricted to the bonds of two well-established firms in the northeastern city.

Shenyang firms have issued more than 200 million yuan (\$54 million) in stocks and bonds since 1985, but holders only could trade privately until Tuesday, the paper added.

"The new exchange represents a major step towards developing securities markets in China," one Western banker said. "It has the

support of the authorities and, if goes well, similar markets will be set up in other cities."

Another banker said the government supported rapid growth in the issuing of stocks and bonds because it opened up a huge source of capital for firms other than bank loans.

The new market would encourage such issues, since potential buyers would be assured of being able to sell the bonds whenever they wanted and firms would be assured of a more stable market, he said.

"China is moving forward steadily and cautiously," another banker said. He said the new market would be carefully supervised by the Shenyang Trust and Investment Corporation (SITIC).

The People's Daily quoted SITIC Manager Meng Tie as saying people could freely trade bonds, with SITIC giving final approval.

OPEC chairman hopes oil prices will stabilise at \$15-18 a barrel

GENEVA (Agencies) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Chairman Rihwanu Lukman of Nigeria said Wednesday he would be pleased if crude oil prices were between \$15 and \$18 per barrel at the end of the two-month period of OPEC production cuts agreed in Geneva.

"I would be quite happy with \$15 to \$18 after two months. It would give us breathing space," Mr. Lukman told Reuters.

OPEC agreed Tuesday to slash crude production from about 20.3 million barrels per day (b/d) to about 16 million b/d.

Mr. Lukman said prices for some crudes had soared from \$8 to \$14 a barrel since Friday as it emerged OPEC might be able to achieve output cutbacks. "I don't expect such jumps every day though," he said.

Mr. Lukman said a committee of experts established during OPEC's conference will examine price structuring systems and decide on long-term pricing aims, but he declined to say what long-term prices OPEC would like.

He said the committee, which will report back at OPEC's next meeting in October, will decide if OPEC should maintain complex pricing systems or revert to officially posted prices.

He said there was no question of OPEC continuing to give up market share to non-OPEC nations. "Non-OPEC nations have increased output from 8 to 28 million b/d while OPEC's output has fallen from 32 million b/d to 16," Mr. Lukman added.

It was now vital for OPEC to come up with a new pricing structure, "otherwise it will throw us back into the frying pan," Mr. Lukman said.

He appealed to non-OPEC oil producers Britain and Norway to cooperate with OPEC in restoring market stability.

"They must realise that we have common interests here," Mr. Lukman said.

He said Tuesday's agreement to slash output to 16 million b/d would encourage non-OPEC producers to cooperate. Mr. Lukman said earlier five OPEC

nations had pledged output cuts already.

He denied the agreement was fragile, saying it was not in any member state's interest to violate the accord. "This agreement has not been entered into lightly and violating it is not going to help anybody," he said.

All OPEC nations had consulted their heads of state before agreeing to the proposal, the conference chairman said.

"Quotas are still the big headache, nevertheless they have to be solved," Mr. Lukman added. He said another major obstacle to OPEC accords, the six-year-old war between Iran and Iraq, had been pushed aside at this conference by Iraq's agreement to be left outside the output accord agreed by 12 members.

The Iranian proposal, tabled after six days of bitter wrangling over quotas and voluntary output cuts, had achieved almost double the production cuts than would otherwise have been expected.

He said voluntary cutbacks would have achieved between two and 2.5 million b/d.

Iran opposes 'strategy of fair market share'

Meanwhile, Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh was quoted as saying Wednesday that Iran opposes "the strategy of fair market share" which ministers of OPEC agreed to continue.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicaragua, quoted Mr. Aqazadeh as telling reporters in Geneva that oil prices could reach as high as \$40 a barrel "after the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Iraqi-imposed war."

He said even by the end of the two-month period, "the ground would not be paved" for OPEC to return to the "strategy of fair

market share."

He said Iran was opposed to "that part of the final solution of the meeting which refers to this strategy."

The OPEC communiqué Tuesday said the group will "pursue its efforts to secure for itself a fair market share consistent with the revenue needed for economic and social development of member countries."

Iraq, exempted from the plan, is in theory free to produce as much oil as it wants. But Iraq has warned that it has other ways to control Iraq's output.

Mexico cuts exports by 10%
On the other hand, Mexico said Wednesday it would cut its oil exports by 10 per cent to 1.35 million b/d.

The cut was announced by Energy Minister Alfredo Del Mazo a few hours after OPEC agreed to reduce its output.

Mr. Del Mazo told a news conference that Mexico had decided to reduce its exports from 1.5 million b/d to 1.35 million b/d.

Slightly less than half of Mexico's oil exports go to the United States. Total production now runs at 2.7 million b/d.

The announcement made Mexico the first non-OPEC oil producer to take steps in accordance with OPEC's agreed cutbacks.

According to senior OPEC sources in Geneva, OPEC had already received pledges to cut output by a total of 500,000 to 700,000 b/d from Mexico, Malaysia, Angola, Oman and Egypt.

Western energy experts here said the Mexican decision had come as no surprise as the government had made repeated statements that it was prepared to cut its exports if other producer countries followed suit.

Revenue from oil exports provide roughly two thirds of Mexico's total export income and officials here have stressed that they consider the stability of the oil market vital for the economy.

Mexico has lost about \$500 million for every \$1 drop in the

price of oil over the past few months.

Mr. Del Mazo said Mexico's move "coincides with the efforts of OPEC to reduce the amount of crude on the market."

He added that the sharp drop in oil prices over the past few months had resulted in revenues of \$6 billion for Mexico instead of the \$14 billion that had been forecast for the year.

The minister predicted that the price of oil would rise by around \$3 — both in the United States and in Europe — as a result of the OPEC decision.

U.S. regards OPEC's dominance as unacceptable

In Washington U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington said Tuesday the United States regarded as unacceptable the possibility OPEC might regain control over oil prices and production.

"The reestablishment of the dominance of OPEC as we knew it in the 1970s is unhealthy for the Americans and the free world," he said at a news conference. "Not only that, it's unacceptable."

At the White House, spokesman Larry Speakes said, "our view is that we've long felt and continue to believe that the free market and laws of supply and demand should determine oil prices and oil supply levels."

"I don't think anyone is yet in a position to predict what this will do to the price of oil," he added.

Mr. Herrington said it was unclear on the basis of news and intelligence report what OPEC members might actually do, but it appeared much depended upon industry leader Saudi Arabia and that creates uncertainty.

"The majority of the cuts in production will take place in Saudi Arabia," he said. "That isn't going to sit too well with the Saudi Arabians."

The Saudis initiated the price war that forced OPEC prices down to about \$9 a barrel from a high of \$30, flooding world markets and cutting prices to seize market shares from non-OPEC members like Britain, Norway and Mexico.

U.S. labour leaders endorse making banks write off some Third World commercial loans

CHICAGO (AP) — The largest trade union federation in the United States has called on the House of Representatives to impose tighter import restraints on textiles, shoes and copper.

In another action Tuesday, the 13.1-million-member AFL-CIO federation's executive council also endorsed making banks write off some Third World loans.

The labour leaders said the U.S. government's debt restructuring plan, which would impose austerity programmes on debtors, would worsen living conditions in poor nations while also throwing more Americans out of work.

The labour leaders, acting on the eve of a scheduled House of Representatives vote on import

quotas, said 400,000 American textile workers have lost their jobs since 1979.

"At stake is the fate of industries vital to U.S. economic health and to the continued employment of hundreds of thousands of Americans who have a right to remain productive members of their communities," said AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland.

The union group complained that too many products are not covered by newly negotiated extensions of the 1962 multi-fibre arrangements.

That agreement limits the annual growth of imports over the next four years from Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong to

between 0.5 and one per cent. The three countries now supply about one-third of all U.S. clothing and textile imports.

While the 1962 agreements were intended to limit the growth of textile and apparel imports from all countries to six per cent a year, they have grown at an annual rate of 19 per cent because the U.S. government has not enforced the accords, the AFL-CIO said.

The AFL-CIO labelled as a "disgrace" the administration's decision last week allowing textile imports from South Africa to rise four per cent annually, saying they should be barred entirely.

In addressing the \$437 billion foreign debt of 15 Third World countries, the labour federation

backed a proposal last month by Democratic Senator Bill Bradley, calling on the World Bank and commercial banks to provide \$42 billion of relief.

Mr. Bradley's plan requires lenders to forego three percentage points of interest and at the same time write off three per cent of principal on outstanding loans to the 15 countries for each of the next three years.

Mr. Baker's plan, unveiled last October, would provide \$29 billion in new loans — \$9 billion from the World Bank and \$20 billion from private banks — over the next three years with unspecified longer repayment periods and easier terms.

Peanuts



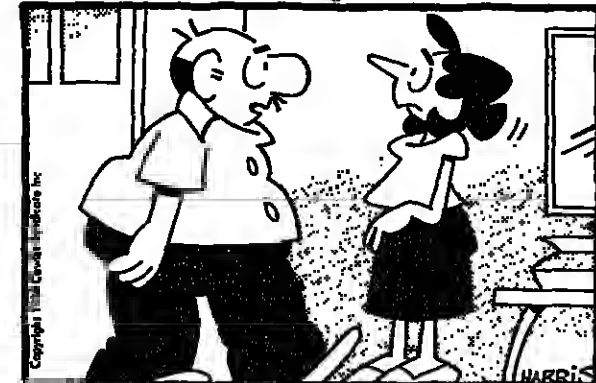
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I finally got the courage to ask my mom for a baby brother. She turned me down."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____ TO _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BOWER FLANK BECALM ZINNA
Answer: Where there's a will there's sometimes this. A WAIL

